DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 359 785 FL 021 266

AUTHOR	Cernik, Jiri
TITLE	Czech Grammar.
INSTITUTION	Foreign Service (Dept. of State), Washington, D.C. Foreign Service Inst.
PUB DATE	92
NOTE	200p.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom Use - Instructional Materials (For Learner) (051)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC08 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Adjectives; Adverbs; Alphabets; Capitalization (Alphabetic); Consonants; *Czech; *Grammar; Language Patterns; Nouns; Numbers; *Phonology; Pronouns; *Pronunciation; *Second Language Learning; Standard Spoken Usage; Syllables; *Syntax; Uncommonly Taught Languages; Verbs; Vocabulary; Vowels; Written Language
IDENTIFIERS	Diphthongs; Interjections (Grammar)

ABSTRACT

The grammar is designed to be used as a reference for addressing structural problems in Czech. The guide is organized into 11 chapters. The first describes the pronunciation of written Czech and explains spelling conventions. Aspects of the language covered here include the alphabet, arrangement of words in the dictionary, vowels, diphthongs, consonants, syllables, word pronunciation, and capitalization of words. The subsequent seven chapters explain major grammatical features and processes related to: nouns; pronouns; adjectives; numerals; verbs; adverbs; and prepositions. The ninth chapter discusses interjections, and the tenth provides notes on syntax. The final chapter gives a somewhat detailed account of colloquial usage, including aspects of pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. (MSE)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED359785

CZECH

Grammar

Grammar
Grammar

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☒ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy

FL021246

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATION 10032
Foreign Service Institute
School of Language Studies

Released December 1992

PREFACE

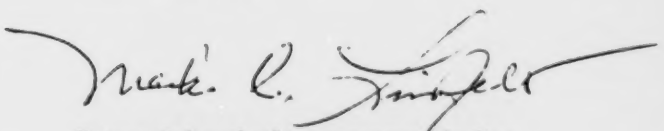
Czech Grammar is an expanded, updated version of the original *Grammar Summary* by Jiri Cernik and Bernard Penny, originally published in 1974 as a joint project of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and the Defense Language Institute (DLI).

Political changes in Czechoslovakia have brought about a more open society. This means the opportunity exists to communicate with a broader range of the population and to go beyond the tourist formulas into the complex spheres of politics, business and culture, where a professional command of the language is essential. To meet this need, FSI now presents a grammar that goes beyond the language classroom and yet remains accessible to a relatively broad audience. It complements the two-volume Czech Basic Course produced in 1985.

Special thanks go to Isabelle Johnson who retyped the whole book on the Xerox Star word processor, Mirek Sablik who formatted the texts, Tom Garza who proofread the English parts, the Czech staff that proofread the Czech examples and grammatical patterns and Gelinda Giacomin who designed the cover page. Christina Hoffman contributed to final editing and made arrangements for publication.

1992

Mark C. Lissfelt



Dean, School of Language Studies
Foreign Service Institute
U.S. Department of State

SUGGESTIONS FOR USE

This grammar is not intended as a textbook for learning how to speak Czech. Rather, it should be used as a reference when a structure problem arises in exercises or conversation. Its purpose is to give the questioning reader a working understanding of how the language works.

The grammar is organized into eleven chapters. The first chapter, "Sounds and Symbols", describes the pronunciation of written Czech and explains some of its spelling conventions. The next seven chapters explain the grammatical features and processes related to: Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives, Numerals, Verbs, Adverbs, and Prepositions. Chapter Nine deals with Interjections and Chapter Ten with Syntax. Finally, Chapter Eleven gives a relatively detailed account of Colloquial Czech.

The subject matter in this book is organized in a decimal-based system for easy reference. The chapter number comes to the LEFT of the first decimal point. The various sections and subsections are then enumerated at another decimal level, as shown below:

2. NOUNS (Chapter)

2.3 The Case System (Chapter Section)

2.3.2 Genitive Case (Subsection)

2.3.2.1 Direct Genitive Functions (Subsection Item)

The approach in this Grammar is more practical than theoretical. Descriptions are aimed at giving the reader help in using the language, rather than a theoretical linguistic understanding. The grammatical terminology is traditional, nontechnical, and generally found in the dictionary. Terms which are not used in the English grammar are defined in the text.

Various grammatical features are illustrated in standard literary Czech. Acceptable, high usage colloquial variants are also given.

Author

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION i

1. SOUNDS AND SYMBOLS 1 - 11

1.1 The Writing System and Pronunciation 1
1.2 Characters in the Alphabet 1
1.3 Arrangement in the Dictionary 1
1.4 Vowels 2
1.4.1 Vowel Length 2
1.4.2 Vowel Length Unmarked in Foreign Words 3
1.4.3 The Sound [i] Represented by *i* and *y* 3
1.4.4 Pronunciation of the Vowels 3
1.5 Diphthongs 3
1.6 Consonants 3
1.6.1 Consonants in Combination with *i* and *y* 3
1.6.2 Consonants in Combination with the Vowel *e* 5
1.6.3 Voiced and Voiceless Consonants 7
1.6.4 Devoicing at the End of a Word 7
1.6.5 The Voice Feature in Consonantal Clusters 7
1.6.6 Consonantal Clusters 8
1.6.7 When the Consonant *j* is Written and Not Pronounced 9
1.6.8 Double Consonants 9
1.7 Syllables 9
1.8 Pronunciation of Words 10
1.8.1 Word Boundaries 10
1.8.2 Word Stress 10
1.9 The Writing System: Capitalization 10
1.9.1 Spelling of Loan Words 10
1.9.2 Capitalization 11

2. NOUNS 12 - 43

2.1 General Characteristics 12
2.2 Basic Noun Groups 12
2.2.1 Gender 12
2.2.2 Indentifying Gender 13
2.2.2.1 Masculine Gender 13
2.2.2.2 Feminine Gender 13
2.2.2.3 Neuter Gender 14
2.2.3 Identifying Hard and Soft Nouns 14
2.2.3.1 Masculine Nouns 14
2.2.3.2 Feminine Nouns 14
2.2.3.3 Neuter Nouns 14
2.3 The Case System 14
2.3.1 Nominative Case (First Case) 15
2.3.2 Genitive Case (Second Case) 15
2.3.2.1 Direct Genitive Functions 15
2.3.2.2 Genitive Case with Prepositions 16
2.3.3 Dative Case (Third Case) 17
2.3.3.1 Direct Dative Functions 17
2.3.3.2 Dative Case with Prepositions 18
2.3.4 Accusative Case (Fourth Case) 18
2.3.4.1 Direct Accusative Functions 18
2.3.4.2 Accusative Case with Prepositions 18
2.3.5 Vocative Case (Fifth Case) 19
2.3.6 Locative Case (Sixth Case) 19
2.3.7 Instrumental Case (Seventh Case) 20
2.3.7.1 Direct Instrumental Functions 20
2.3.7.2 Instrumental Case with Prepositions 22

2.4	**Masculine Noun Endings**	23
2.4.1	Basic Masculine Groups, Singular	23
2.4.1.1	Notes on the Masculine Declensions	23
2.4.1.2	Notes on the Masculine Case Ending, Singular	24
2.4.2	Mixed Masculine Declension, Singular	28
2.4.3	Irregular Masculine Declension, Singular	28
2.4.4	Basic Masculine Groups, Plural	29
2. 4.4.1	Notes on the Masculine, Plural Endings	29
2.4.5	Mixed Masculine Declension, Plural	32
2.4.6	Declension of Irregular Masculine, Plural Nouns	33
2.5	**Feminine Noun Endings**	34
2.5.1	Basic Feminine Noun Groups, Singular	34
2.5.1.1	Notes on the Feminine Declensions, Singular	34
2.5.1.2	Notes on the Feminine Case Endings, Singular	35
2.5.2	Basic Feminine Groups, Plural	37
2.5.2.1	Notes on the Feminine Case Endings, Plural	37
2.6	**Neuter Noun Endings**	38
2.6.1	Basic Neuter Noun Groups, Singular	39
2.6.1.1	Notes on the Neuter, Singular Endings	39
2.6.2	Basic Neuter Noun Groups, Plural	40
2.6.2.1	Notes on the Neuter, Plural Endings	40
2.6.3	Irregular Neuter Nouns	41
2.7	**Dual Declension**	43
2.8	**Nouns Only in Plural**	43
3.	**PRONOUNS**	45 - 64
3.1	**Personal Pronouns**	45
3.2	**Interrogative Pronouns**	47
3.3	**Demonstrative Pronouns**	48

S

3.3.1 Basic Demonstrative Pronoun Group 48
3.3.2 Derived Demonstrative Pronouns 49
3.3.3 Declension of the Pronouns *týž, tentýž*, etc. 50
3.4 Possessive Pronouns 51
3.5 Reflexive Pronouns 54
3.5.1 Personal Reflexive Pronouns 54
3.5.2 Possessive Reflexive Pronouns 54
3.6 Relative Pronouns 55
3.7 Negative Pronouns 59
3.8 Indefinite Pronouns 60
3.9 The Pronouns *všechen* and *každý* 63

4. ADJECTIVES 65 - 76

4.1 General Characteristics 65
4.2 Basic Adjectival Declensions 65
4.2.1 Hard Declension 65
4.2.2 Soft Declension 67
4.3 Short Forms of Adjectives 68
4.4 Use of the Short Adjectival Form *rád* 68
4.5 Adjectival Form Nouns 70
4.6 Adjectival Surnames 70
4.7 Degrees of Adjectives 70
4.7.1 Formation of the Comparative Degree 70
4.7.2 Irregular Comparative Degree Forms 72
4.7.3 Superlative Degree Forms 73
4.7.4 Structures Using Degrees of Comparison 73
4.8 Possessive Adjectives 74
4.8.1 Male Possessive Adjectives 75
4.8.2 Female Possessive Adjectives 76

5. NUMERALS 77 - 95

5.1 Cardinal Numerals 77
5.1.1 Declension of Cardinal Numerals 77
5.1.2 Cardinal Numerals and Noun Case Agreement 83
5.1.3 Cardinal Numerals and Past Tense Agreement 83
5.2 Numerals Used as Nouns 85
5.3 Ordinal Numerals 85
5.3.1 Declension of Ordinal Numerals 86
5.4 Dual Numerals 88
5.4.1 Declension of Dual Numerals 89
5.5 Multiple Numerals 90
5.6 Indefinite Quantifiers 91
5.6.1 Declension of the Indefinite Quantifiers 92
5.6.2 Function of Nouns with Indefinite Quantifiers 93
5.6.3 Indefinite Quantifiers in Compound Words 93
5.7 Decimal Numerals 94
5.8 Telling Time 94

6. VERBS 98 - 142

6.1 General Characteristics 98
6.2 The Verb *být* (to be) 98
6.3 Infinitive Forms 100
6.4 Verbal Aspect 101
6.4.1 Relationship between Aspectual Pairs 103
6.4.2 Identifying Aspect 107
6.5 Conjugating Verbs 108
6.5.1 The Present Tense 108
6.5.1.1 Determining the Conjugation 111

	6.5.1.2	Negating Present Tense Verbs	111
	6.5.1.3	Questions in the Present Tense	112
	6.5.2	**The Future Tense**	112
	6.5.3	**The Past Tense**	114
	6.5.3.1	Formation of the Past Tense	114
	6.5.3.2	Changes in the Verb Stem	116
	6.5.3.3	Negative Forms of the Past Tense	117
	6.5.3.4	Word Order	117
	6.5.3.5	Subject-Verb Agreement in the Past Tense	118
	6.5.3.6	Sequence of Tenses	119
	6.5.4	**Verbs of Motion**	119
6.6	**Reflexive Verbs**		121
	6.6.1	**The Particles *se* and *si* without Meanings**	121
	6.6.2	**The Subject Acting upon Itself, Reciprocal Action**	121
	6.6.3	**The Particle *si* Conveying Possession**	123
	6.6.4	**The Particle *si* Conveying Action "to oneself"**	124
	6.6.5	**Word Order**	124
6.7	**Verbal Mood**		125
	6.7.1	**Modal Phrase**	125
	6.7.2	**The Imperative Mood**	127
	6.7.2.1	Formation of the Imperative Mood	127
	6.7.3	**The Conditional Mood**	130
	6.7.3.1	Formation of the Conditional Mood	131
	6.7.3.2	Negative Forms	131
	6.7.3.3	Conditional Mood Word Order	131
	6.7.3.4	"If" Clauses	132
	6.7.3.5	Purpose Clauses	133
6.8	**Voice**		133
	6.8.1	**Formation of the Passive Voice**	134
	6.8.2	**Gender and Number Agreement in the Passive**	136
	6.8.3	**The Passive Voice and Tenses**	137

6.8.4 Passive Voice Functions 137
6.8.5 Passive Voice with *se* 138
6.9 Verbal Nouns and Adjectives 139
6.9.1 Formation of Verbal Nouns 139
6.9.2 Formation of Verbal Adjectives 140
6.9.3 Irregular Verbs 141

7. ADVERBS 143 - 150

7.1 Adverbs of Place 143
7.2 Adverbs of Time 145
7.3 Adverbs of Manner 146
7.3.1 Formation of the Adverbs of Manner 146
7.3.2 Comparison of Adverbs 148
7.4 Modal Adverbs 150
7.5 Sentence Structures Using Adverbs 150

8. PREPOSITIONS 151 - 162

9. INTERJECTIONS 163 - 164

9.1 General Description 163
9.2 Onomatopoeic Function 163
9.3. Interjections Expressing Requests 164
9.4 Interjections Derived from Nouns 164

10. NOTES ON SYNTAX 165 - 172

10.1 Complex Sentences and Conjunctions 165
10.2 Sentences without a Subject 170
10.3 Subject-Verb Agreement 171
10.4 Complex Sentences with *když* (when) 171
10.5 The Phrases *že ano*, *že ne* 172

11. COLLOQUIAL CZECH 173 - 183

11.1 General Description 173
11.1.1 Pronunciation 173
11.1.2 Reducing Consonantel Clusters 173
11.1.3 Contracting and Expanding 174
11.1.4 Adding Consonant *v* 174
11.1.5 Pronunciation Change - *e* into *í* 174
11.1.6 Pronunciation Change - *é* into *í* 174
11.1.7 Pronunciation of *ý* in adjectives 174
11.2 Grammar 175
11.2.1 Nouns 175
11.2.1.1 Dative and Locative Endings *-ovi* 175
11.2.1.2 Dual Endingd -ama and *-ema* 175
11.2.1.3 Masculine Nominative Plural Endings 176
11.2.1.4 Locative Plural Ending *-ách* 176
11.2.1.5 Locative Dual Endings 176
11.2.2 Pronouns 177
11.2.2.1 Instrumental of Pronouns *my, vy, oni* 177
11.2.2.2 Interrogative Pronouns *který* and *jaký* 177
11.2.2.3 Changes in the Demonstrative Pronoun *ten* 177
11.2.2.4 Pronunciation of Pronouns *můj, tvůj, svůj* 178
11.2.2.5 Possessive Pronoun *svůj* 179
11.2.2.6 Indefinite pronoun *všechen* 179
11.2.3 Adjectives 179
11.2.3.1 Pronunciation of Adjectival Endings 179
11.2.3.2 Changes in the Nominative Plural 179
11.2.3.3 Instrumental Plural Endings 180
11.2.4 Numerals 180
11.2.4.1 Pronunciation of Numerals 4, 7, 8 180
11.2.4.2 German Inversion in Numerals 180

11.2.4.3 Adjectival Forms of Inverted Numerals 180
11.2.5 Verbs 181
11.2.5.1 Colloquial Infinitives 181
11.2.5.2 Reduced Present Tense Endings 181
11.2.5.3 Omission of *l* in the Past Tense 181
11.2.5.4 Changes in the Past Tense 182
11.2.5.5 Changes in Conditional Particles 182
11.2.5.6 Passive Participles and Adjectives 182
11.2.6 Adverbs 182
11.2.6.1 Omission of Comparative and Superlative Endings 182
11.2.6.2 Changes in the Comparative and Superlative 182
11.2.7 Prepositions 183
11.2.7.1 Use of *skrz* instead of *kvůli* 183
11.2.7.1 Use of *podle* instead of *podél* 183
11.3 Vocabulary 183
11.3.1 General Description 183
11.3.2 Nouns 184
11.3.3 Verbs 185
11.3.4 Adjectives 185

1. SOUNDS AND SYMBOLS

1.1 The Writing System and Pronunciation

There is a strong correspondence between the way words are spelled and the way they are pronounced. Except for rules later stated, there is usually one sound for each letter or combination of letters.

1.2 Characters in the Alphabet

The Czech alphabet has 31 characters, not counting **g**, **w**, **x**, which are used only in foreign words.

A á	*(á)*	*J j*	*(jé)*	*S s*	*(es)*
B b	*(bé)*	*K k*	*(ká)*	*Š š*	*(eš)*
C c	*(cé)*	*L l*	*(el)*	*T t*	*(té)*
Č č	*(čé)*	*M m*	*(em)*	*Ť ť*	*(ťé)*
D d	*(dé)*	*N n*	*(en)*	*U u*	*(ú)*
Ď ď	*(ďé)*	*Ň ň*	*(eň)*	*V v*	*(vé)*
E e	*(é)*	*O o*	*(ó)*	*W w*	*(dvojité vé)*
F f	*(ef)*	*P p*	*(pé)*	*X x*	*(iks)*
G g	*(gé)*	*Q q*	*(kvé)*	*Y y*	*(ypsilon)*
H h	*(há)*	*R r*	*(er)*	*Z z*	*(zet)*
Ch ch	*(chá)*	*Ř ř*	*(eř)*	*Ž ž*	*(žet)*
I i	*(i)*				

(The name of each letter is given in parentheses.)

1.3 Arrangements in the Dictionary

Czech dictionaries are not always uniform in the order of the letters. Words starting with consonants **č**, **š**, and **ž** are always listed separately following **c**, **s**, and **z**, respectively. Words starting with **d'**, **t'**, **ň** are listed under **d**, **t**, **n**. If **ř** starts a word, it is sometimes listed under **r**, sometimes separately following **r**. The characters **ch** represent a single sound and in a dictionary it follows the letter **h**. The vowel **ě** is a variant of **e**. No Czech word starts with **ě**.

1.4 Vowels

There are five basic vowel sounds in Czech, [**a**], [**e**], [**i**], [**o**], [**u**]. Each of these has a long and short variant.

1.4.1 Vowel Length

The writing system indicates vowel length by an accent mark (*čárka*) over the vowel.

A long [**ú**] is shown in two ways. An accent mark is used when **ú** is at the beginning of a word *ústava* (constitution), or if a word starting with **ú** forms part of a compound word *trojúhelník* (triangle). A long [**ú**] is otherwise indicated by a circle mark (kroužek), e.g. *hůl* (stick).

In noun declensions or verbal constructions, the long vowel may be substituted by its short counterpart, e.g.:

mráz	= *mrazu* (gen. sg.)		*chválit* (inf.)	= *chval* (imperative)
síla	= *silou* (instr. sg.)		*svítit* (inf.)	= *svit'* (imperative)
chléb	= *chleba* (gen. sg.)		*lézt* (inf.)	= *lezu* (1st p. sg.)
umýt se (inf.)	= *umyji se* (1st p. sg.)		*rozpůlit* (inf.)	= *rozpul* (imperative)

The diphthong **ou** will shorten into **u**;

moucha = *much* (gen. pl.) *kouřit* (inf.) = *kuř* (imperative)

Sometimes the long vowel **í** and **ů** may turn into a short, but totally different vowel:

vítr = *větru* (gen. sg.)
stůl = *stolu* (gen. sg.)

More about this feature under the sections **Nouns** and **Verbs**.

1.4.2 Vowel Length Unmarked in Foreign Words

A long [**ó**] appears mostly in foreign words. It is usually unmarked, *balon*, [*balón*] (baloon). Other long vowels may also be unmarked: *serum* [*sérum*] (serum), *literatura* [*literatůra*] (literature).

1.4.3 The Sound [*i*] Represented by *i* and *y*

There is no difference in the pronunciation of these two letters. They are used as a spelling convention in combination with consonants. (See Consonants Section 1.6.1)

1.4.4 Pronunciation of the Vowels

Vowels are pronounced in the same manner, regardless of where they appear in a word or sentence.

1.5 Diphthongs

Czech has three diphthongs or gliding vowel sounds:

[***au***]	*auto*	(car)
[***eu***]	*neutrální*	(neutral)
[***ou***]	*nesou*	(they carry)

The pronunciation of the diphthongs ***ia, ie, ii, io,iu, ai, ei, oi*** and ***ui*** contains the sound ***j***, e.g., *diagnóza (dijagnóza)*, *Anglie (Anglije)*, *v Anglii (v Angliji)*, *milión (milijón)*, *rádium (rádijum)*, *laik (lajik)*, *u mauzolei (u mauzolejí)*, *stoik (stojik)*, *truismus (trujizmus)*.

1.6 Consonants

The pronunciation of Czech consonants is fairly well represented by the written symbols. Only a few features can modify the pronunciation of some of the consonants.

1.6.1 Consonants in Combination with *i* and *y*

Consonants can be divided into three groups according to the way they combine with ***i*** or ***y***.

Hard	Soft	Neutral
h	*č*	*b*
ch	*ř*	*f*
k	*š*	*l*
r	*ž*	*m*
d	*d'*	*p*
t	*t'*	*s*
n	*ň*	*v*
	c	*z*
	j	

The sounds [*d*] - [*d'*], [*t*] - [*t'*], [*n*] - [*ň*] are clear, hard-soft counterparts of the same sound.

The distinction "hard-soft" will also be useful later in the discussion of endings on nouns.

According to spelling conventions, soft consonants combine with the vowel ***i***; the vowel ***y*** is used in combination with hard consonants; ***čínský*** (Chinese), ***šíje*** (neck) vs. ***chyba*** (mistake) ***dým*** (smoke). (There is no difference between the pronunciation ***i*** and ***y***.)

The consonants ***d, t, n*** may also be followed by ***i***, but in this case the consonants lose their hard pronunciation and are pronounced as their soft counterparts [***d'***], [***t'***], [***ň***].

The neutral consonants may be followed by either ***i*** or ***y***. This creates a situation similar to that in English of words which sound the same, but have a different meaning: ***bil - byl*** (he beat - he was), ***mít - mýt*** (to have-to wash).

The following is a list of words in which the neutral consonant is always followed by **y**:

b: ***být*** (and its derivatives such as ***byt, dobytek, nábytek, příbytek, zbytek, obyvatel, bydlet*** etc.), ***obyčej, bystrý, (Bystřice), bylina, kobyla (Kobylisy), býk, babyka*** and number of proper names such as: ***Přibyslav, Bydžov, Zbyněk*** and others.

l: ***slyšet, mlýn***, (but mlít), ***blýskat se, polykat, plynout, (plyn), plýtvat, lýko, lysý, lýtko, lyže, pelyněk, vzlykat, slynout, plyš, plytký, vlys*** and some proper names such as ***Lysolaje, Volyně*** and others.

18

m: ***my, mýt,*** (but ***mít*** in the sense of ***vlastnit***), ***hmyz, myslet,*** (and its derivatives such as ***smysl, průmysl, myslivec, Přemysl,*** etc.), ***mýlit se, myš, hlemýžď, mýto, mýtit,*** (but ***vymítat*** from ***metat***), ***mykat,*** (***zamykat, vymykat, přimykat se, smýkat, smyčec, průsmyk,*** etc.), ***dmýchat, chmýří, nachomýtnout se, mys*** and some proper names such as ***Kamýk, Litomyšl,*** etc.

p: ***pýcha*** (and its derivatives such as ***přepych, pýchavka***), ***pytel*** (***pytlák***), ***pysk, netopýr, slepýš, pyl, kopyto, klopýtat, třpytit se, zpytovat, pykat, pýr, pýří, pýřit se,*** and some proper names such as ***Pyšely, Spytihněv,*** etc.

s: ***sytý, syn, sýr*** (***syrovátka***), ***syrový, syrý, sychravý, usychat, sýkora, sysel, sýček, syčet, sypat,*** (***sypký, sýpka***).

v: ***vy-, vy-, vý-*** prefix as in ***vyhodit, výstřel*** but ***viset, vidět***), ***vykat, vysoký, vydra, výr,*** (but ***vir ve vodě***), ***zvyk*** (and its derivatives such as ***zvyknout si, zvyklý, obvyklý***), ***žvýkat, výt*** (but ***vít*** as in ***vít věnec***), ***výskat, povyk, vyžle, cavyky*** and some proper names such as ***Výtoň, Vyšehrad, Vysočany,*** etc.

z: ***brzy, jazyk, nazývat*** (and its derivatives such as ***ozývat se, vzývat, vyzývat,*** etc.)

The same spelling will appear in all derivatives and compounds contaning the words listed above such as ***plynoměr,*** (***plyn***), ***lýkovec,*** (***lýko***), ***zlozvyk,*** (***zvyk***), ***umyvadlo,*** (***mýt***), etc.

NOTE: The spelling conventions for ***i*** and ***y*** don't apply to foreign borrowings in Czech where the original spelling is preserved, e.g., ***kino*** (movie theater). The rule concerning the pronunciation of the consonants ***d, t, n*** followed by ***i*** also does not apply to foreign words, e.g., ***diagram***.

1.6.2 Consonants in Combination with the Vowel ě

The vowel ***ě*** may follow ***d, t, n*** or the neutral consonants. Its function is similar to the vowel ***i*** following ***d, t, n***, indicating a soft pronunciation.

Written		Pronounced
dělat	(to do)	[d'elat]
tělo	(body)	[t'elo]
někdo	(someone)	[ňekdo]

Following the neutral consonants ***b***, ***p***, ***v***, and ***m*** a "y-glide" as in 'yes' follow the consonant:

Written		Pronounced
běhat	(to run)	[bjehat]
pět	(five)	[pjet]
věřit	(to believe)	[vjeřit]
měsíc	(moon)	[mňesíc]

Note that the syllable ***mě*** is pronounced as though an ***ň*** were inserted.

Softening of consonants after the vowels ***i***, ***e*** also appears when declining nous, forming various verbal constructions and when other morphological changes occur.

Hard and some neutral consonants will soften in this predictable pattern:

hard	t	d	n	r	k	h	ch	
primary softening	t'	d'	ň	ř	c	z	š	
secondary softening	c	z			č	ž		
neutral	g	s	z	p	b	m	v	f
primary softening	z	š	ž	p (j)	b (j)	mň	v (j)	f (j)
secondary softening	ž							

Examples: *plat - platit - placen*
hod - hodit - hozen
kavárna - v kavárně
bratr - bratři
matka - matce - matčin

20

ucho - uši
noha - noze - nožní
hlas - hlášení
vozit - vožen
noc - noční

1.6.3 Voiced and Voiceless Consonants

Czech consonants can be divided into two groups depending on whether or not the voice is used to articulate them. **Voiced** means that the vocal cords vibrate during the articulation of the consonant. Following is a list of the voiced and voiceless consonants. Those consonants which have been arranged in pairs are articulated in exactly the same way, except that in one case the voice is used, in the other it is not. (It is impossible to whisper the voiced consonants.)

Voiced	[b]	[v]	[d]	[d']	[z]	[ž]	[g]	[h]	[r]	[l]	[m]	[n]	[ň]	[j]	[ř]
Voiceless	[p]	[f]	[t]	[t']	[s]	[š]	[k]	[ch]	-	-	-	-	-	-	- [c] [č]

1.6.4 Devoicing at the End of a Word

When a paired voiced consonant occurs at the end of a word, it is pronounced as its voiceless counterpart.

Written		Pronounced
hrad	(castle)	[hrat]
konev	(can)	[konef]
vůz	(car)	[vůs]

1.6.5 The Voice Feature in Consonantal Clusters

When several consonants are clustered together, the final consonant determines whether the entire cluster is voiced or voiceless.

permanent clusters

voicing	devoicing
kdo [gdo]	***koloběžka*** [koloběška]
sbírat [zbírat]	***obchod*** [opchot]
svatba [svadba]	***vstřelit*** [fstřelit]

temporary clusters

s Vlastou [z] Vlastou	***z Prahy*** [s] Prahy
k Hodoninu [g] Hodoninu	***v Karlíně*** [f] Karlíně
přes Benešov [přez] Benešov	***pod Karlovem*** [pot] Karlovem

Consonants which do not form voiced-voiceless pairs (***m, n, ň, l, j, r, ř***) do not influence pronunciation of the preceding consonant: ***smích, šlapat, tráva, plamen, k jaru, s ledem***, etc.

Should there be voiced as well as voiceless variants each carries different meaning, e.g.: ***zjednat*** (to secure) - ***sjednat*** (to consolidate), ***změna*** (change) - ***směna*** (shift).

Some peculiarities:

ř: even though the consonant ***ř*** does not have a distinct voiced - voiceless pair, it has voiced and voiceless pronunciation, especially at the end of words its pronunciation is quite weaker than before a vowel, e.g.: ***řeka - krunýř, říznout - nožíř, řádit - milionář***.

As such, it will voice a voiceless consonant in a preposition, e.g., ***k řece*** [*g řece*], ***s ředitelem*** [*z ředitelem*], ***přes řetěz*** [*přez řetěs*].

In permanent clusters, there is no change, e.g., ***přítel*** [*přítel*], ***střelit*** [*střelit*], ***křížek*** [*křížek*]. Should there be a voiced consonant, the meaning is different, e.g., ***třít*** (to rub) vs. ***dřít*** (to toil).

v: even though ***v*** is a pair consonant which will readily devoice into ***f*** (***lávka*** pronounced [*láfka*]), it will not voice a preceding voiceless consonant in any type of clusters, e.g., ***k vám, svatý, tvořit***.

1.6.6 The consonantal clusters *ts, tc, ds, dc* and *tš, dš, tč, dč*.

The consonantal clusters ***ts, tc, ds, dc*** in the middle of a word are pronounced as a single sound ***c***:

dětský [děcký]
otce [oce]
lidský [lický]
soudce [souce]

The consonantal clusters ***tš***, ***dš***, ***tč***, ***dč*** in the middle of a word are pronounced as a single sound ***č***:

kratší [krači]
sladší [slači]
otče [oče]
svědčit [svěčit]

1.6.7 When the Consonant *j* is Written and Not Pronounced

The consonant ***j*** is not pronounced when it initiates a cluster at the beginning of a word.

Written		Pronounced
jde	(he goes)	[de]
jméno	(name)	[méno]

In all other positions, ***j*** is pronounced as it is written.

1.6.8 The Consonants in Foreign Words

Loan words containing the consonant ***s*** frequently retain the foreign spelling and ***s*** is pronounced as [***z***]. ***Asie*** (Asia), [***Azie***], etc.

1.6.9 Double Consonants

Written double consonants are pronounced as a single consonant.

Written		Pronounced
oddělení	(section)	[oděleni]
Anna	(Ann)	[Ana]

1.7 Syllables

Words are divided into syllables in such a way that each syllable ends with a vowel, e.g. ***brá-na*** (tower), ***o-tec*** (father), ***ško-la*** (school). Consonant clusters are usually divided, ***mat-ka*** (mother) ***koč-ka*** (cat).

The consonants ***r*** and ***l*** are called syllable creative consonants. They can form a syllable out of a consonantal cluster which has no vowel, ***str-čit*** (to push), ***hr-kat*** (to rattle), ***vlk*** (wolf).

1.8 Pronunciation of Words

The way words are separated and the way they are accented is different from English.

1.8.1 Word Boundaries

In Czech speech, words do not flow together the way they do in English. There is a slight stop between words. This is sometimes calles a glottal stop. The stop is apparent if the following word starts with a vowel, and it is particularly strong if a one-consonant preposition is used.

Written	Pronounced
Koupil jsem auto. (I bought a car.)	[*Koupil-sem-auto*]
On je v Americe. (He's in America.)	[*on-je-v-americe*]

1.8.2 Word Stress

The first syllable in a word always receives strong stress, ***mladá žena*** (a young woman), ***nové kino***, (a new movie theater). Stress is totally independent of other features such as the length of the word or length of the vowel.

However, if a preposition consisting of an entire syllable is in combination with a noun, stress falls on the preposition, : ***na stole*** (on the table), ***před domem*** (in front of the house), ***ve škole*** (at the school). Prepositions consisting of a single consonant follow the first stated general rule, ***v práci*** (at work), ***z továrny*** (from the factory).

1.9 The Writing System

The Czech writing system is basically phonetic which means that all uttered words are written as they are pronounced.

1.9.1 Spelling of loanwords

Words of high frequency are spelled according to the Czech pronunciation. Compare:

konkrétní	concrete
koncert	concert
kvantita	quantity
lingvista	linguist
tramvaj	tramway
bojkot	boycott
pyžamo	pajamas
klaun	clown

The original spelling is maintained in:

a: words of international use : *watt, brutto, netto, wolfram, Celsius*

b: rarely used words: *allegro, plaidoyer, lunch*

c: proper names: *Schiller, Washington, Curie*

d: geographic names of places with which the Czech nation had limited contact: *New York, Charleston, Yokohama* but *Varšava, Moskva, Paříž, Londýn, Alpy, Dněpr, Rýn*

1.9.2 Capitalization

Only proper names of persons, places, institutions, etc., are capitalized. *Pavel* (Paul), *Jiří* (George), *Praha* (Prague), *Československo*. Words which in English are capitalized, such as **I** (*já*), **Mr.** (*pán*), **Mrs.** (*paní*), the days of the week and the months, are not capitalized in Czech. If the proper name, other than the name of a person, town or village, consists of several words, only the first is capitalized: *Česko-slovenská federativní republika*.

2. NOUNS

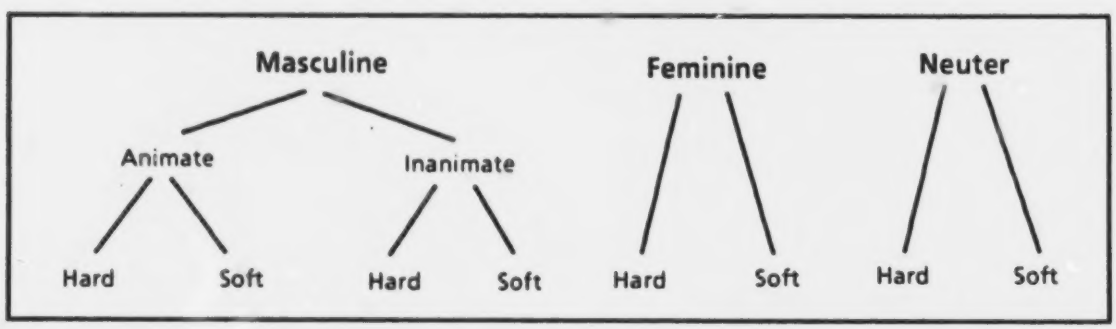
2.1 General Characteristics

Nouns in Czech have the greatest number of grammatical relationships. Unlike English, which uses prepositions and word order to express certain grammatical functions, Czech uses a system of noun endings. Each noun uses a system of seven different endings called cases, in singular and plural. A system of case endings is called a declension.

In order to know which declension applies to a noun, it is necessary to determine the gender of a given noun. In addition to the gender, the right choice of an ending will also depend on the number. Most of the Czech nouns have singular and plural forms. There are some nouns, however, which occur only in the singular, such as *tma* (darkness), *mír* (peace), *zloba* (hatred), etc. and others which exist in the plural form only such as *hodinky* (watch), *kamna* (stove), *prázdniny* (school vacation). In case of the plural nouns, it is essential to know what gender they are, (sometimes we can recreate the singular: e.g. *hodinka*, therefore *hodinky* is a feminine plural noun) because of the agreement when used with adjectives e.g., *české hodinky* (f.) vs. *stará kamna* (n.)

2.2 Basic Noun Groups

Czech nouns can be grouped into three major classes called genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. The masculine nouns require a further grouping into animate (representing living things) and inanimate. Each of the previously mentioned groups has sub-groups called hard and soft.



2.2.1 Gender

In most cases, there is no "logical" explanation why nouns have a certain gender. For example *stůl* (table) is masculine *židle* (chair), is feminine, and *pivo* (beer) is neuter. The gender of a noun must be memorized.

There are some instances where nouns do reflect natural gender; the nouns denoting adult humans have this characteristic: masculine nouns - *otec* (father), *voják* (soldier), *kovář* (blacksmith); feminine nouns - *matka* (mother), *slečna* (Miss).

2.2.2 Identifying Gender

The best way to identify the gender of a noun is to look at words modifying the noun. Nouns and their modifiers (adjectives, possessive pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, etc.) must agree in gender. The ending on the modifier thus indicates the gender of the noun.

Nouns also possess gender markers. Gender is indicated by endings and suffixes.

2.2.2.1 Masculine Gender

Nouns ending in a consonant are usually masculine.
Suffixes marking masculine gender:

-ák:	*zpěvák* (singer), *školák* (pupil), *táborák* (campfire)
-ář, ař:	*rybář* (fisherman), *kovář* (blacksmith), *pekař* (baker)
-an:	*Angličan* (Englishman), *krajan* (countryman), *Pražan* (inhabitant of Prague)
-č:	*zapalovač* (lighter), *hráč* (player), *nosič* (porter)
-ek:	*domek* (small house), *kousek* (small piece), *strýček* (uncle)
-ík:	*nožík* (small knife), *koník* (small horse), *balík* (parcel)
-ník:	*horník* (miner), *závodník* (racer), *zedník* (bricklayer)
-ín:	*kravín* (cowshed), *Kolín* (name of town), *rabín* (rabbi)
-ot:	*šumot* (rustle), *hukot* (roar), *sykot* (hissing)

2.2.2.2 Feminine Gender

Nouns ending with the vowel *-a* are predominantly feminine: *pravda* (truth), *škola* (school), *budova* (building).

Suffixes marking feminine gender include:

-est:	*bolest* (pain), *lest* (trick), *neřest* (vice)
-ice:	*ulice* (street), *radnice* (city hall), *ložnice* (bedroom)
-ost:	*starost* (worry), *radost* (happiness), *hloupost* (stupidity)
-yně:	*přítelkyně* (girlfriend), *žákyně* (female pupil), *bohyně* (goddess)
-ile:	*košile* (shirt)

2.2.2.3 Neuter Gender

All nouns ending with the vowel **-o** or **-í** are neuter: ***město*** (town), ***pivo*** (beer), ***nádraží*** (station), ***počasí*** (weather). There is one characteristic neuter suffix ***-iště:*** ***letiště*** (airport), ***pracoviště*** (place of work), ***hřiště*** (playground).

2.2.3 Identifying Hard and Soft Nouns

Once the gender of a noun has been determined, the next question is whether the particular noun is hard or soft.

2.2.3.1 Masculine Nouns

(Review consonant Section 1.61) Nouns ending in hard consonants and the majority of nouns ending in neutral consonants belong to the hard declension. Nouns ending in soft consonants belong to the soft declension.

A small number of masculine nouns end in **-a** or **-e**. Nouns ending in **-a** have a mixed declension. Nouns ending in **-e** are usually declined as soft nouns.

2.2.3.2 Feminine Nouns

The appropriate declension pattern for feminine nouns is determined by the final vowel. Nouns which end in **-a** are considered hard and those which end in **-e** are considered soft. The vowel **e** is sometimes regarded as a soft vowel. All other vowel endings, **-o**, **-u**, **-y** do not affect the preceding consonants and are regarded as hard vowels.

Feminine nouns ending in consonants are often grouped as soft nouns because their declension is similar to the soft pattern of nouns ending in **-e**.

2.2.3.3 Neuter Nouns

All neuter nouns end in a vowel. Those ending in **-o** belong to the hard declension and those ending in **-e** and **-í** belong to the soft declension.

2.3 The Case System

Each Czech noun can have seven different case endings in singular and plural. The Latin names are conventionally used to describe them - nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, vocative, locative, and instrumental. (In Czech they are called "first, second, third (etc.) case." Each case has one or more grammatical functions and meanings.

2.3.1 Nominative Case (First Case)

The subject of a verb or the object after verb to be e.g. in the sentence *Praha je hlavní město Československa* (Prague is the capital of Czechoslovakia) is in the nominative case. Nouns are also listed in the dictionary in the nominative case.

2.3.2 Genitive Case (Second Case)

In some functions of the genitive case prepositions are used; in other functions they are not. When a preposition is not used, the grammatical structure is called a direct genitive.

2.3.2.1 Direct Genitive Functions

The direct genitive is used as a noun qualifier:

To jsou knihy pana Nováka. (These as Mr. Novak's books.) This construction also conveys the idea of possession.

Other noun qualifiers:

Podnebí Československa (the climate of Czechoslovakia); *mapa světa* (a map of the world)

The direct genitive is used as a qualifier after adverbs expressing quantity:

hodně, mnoho,moc	*Mám mnoho přátel.*
(much, many, plenty)	(I have many friends.)
málo	*Máme málo peněz.*
(little, a few)	(We have little money.)
trochu	*Zde je trochu mléka.*
(a little bit)	(There is a little bit of milk here.)
dost	*Tam je dost lidí.*
(enough)	(There are enough people here.)
kolik	*Kolik knih máš?*
(how many, how much)	(How many books do you have?)

The direct genitive is used after nouns which express some part or quantity of a whole:

kilo cukru	(a kilogram of sugar)
metr provazu	(a meter of rope)
kus masa	(a piece of meat)
láhev vodky	(a bottle of vodka)
čtvrt hodiny	(a quarter of an hour)

The direct genitive is always used after the numbers five and above:

Tam bylo pět chlapců.	(There were five boys there.)
Mám patnáct korun.	(I have fifteen crowns.)
To letadlo stojí dva milióny dolarů.	(That airplane costs two million dollars.)

Dates are always in direct genitive:

Narodil jsem se prvního ledna.	(I was born on the first of January.)

Several verbs take direct genitive agreement:

ptát se	*Ptal jsem se toho člověka na cestu.*
(to ask)	(I asked the man the way.)
účastnit se	*Účastnil jsem se motocyklového závodu.*
(to participate)	(I've participated in a motorcycle race.)

2.3.2.2 Genitive Case with Prepositions

z (from)	*Jsem z Prahy.*	(I am from Prague.)
od (from)	*Jdu od bratra.*	(I am coming from my brother's place.)
do (to, into)	*Jedu do Brna.*	(I am going to Brno.)
místo (instead of)	*Šel tam místo něho.*	(He went there instead of him.)
bez (without)	*Jsem bez peněz.*	(I am without money.)

2.3.3 Dative Case (Third Case)

Some functions of the dative case require the use of prepositions; others do not. When a preposition is not used, the grammatical structure is called a direct dative.

2.3.3.1 Direct Dative Functions

The direct dative is used most often to denote a person for whose benefit the action of the verb is realized (the indirect object).

Dal jsem příteli knihu.	(I gave my friend a book.)
Píši dopis panu Novákovi.	(I am writing Mr. Novak a letter.)
Řekni to tomu důstojníkovi.	(Tell it to that officer.)

Note the following examples which have the same concept as above, but in English are expressed through a prepositional phrase:

Jan otevřel Jiřině dveře.	John opened the door for Jiřina.
Koupil synovi dar.	He bought his son a present.

Certain verbs require direct dative agreement:

děkovat	*Děkoval učiteli za pomoc.*
(to thank)	(He thanked the teacher for [his] help.)
pomáhat	*Pomáhá každému.*
(to help)	(He helps everyone.)
rozumět	*Nerozumí tomu problému.*
(to understand)	(She doesn't understand the problem.)

Pay special attention to the following verbs which require direct dative agreement.

líbit se	*Jak se líbil vašemu příteli ten film?*
(to like)	(How did your friend like the film?)
chutnat	*Hostům chutnal oběd.*
(to enjoy food or drink)	(The guests enjoyed the lunch.)

The dative is used in impersonal (subjectless) sentences to denote a person experiencing a certain state:

Sestře je zima.	(Sister is [feels] cold.)
Není vám teplo?	(Aren't you hot?)
Otci není dobře.	(Father doesn't feel well.)
Bratrovi je deset let.	(Brother is ten years old.)

2.3.3.2 Dative Case with Prepositions

A number of prepositions require dative case agreement:

k	*Jdu k hotelu.*
(to, towards)	(I'm going to the hotel.)
	Ke komu on jde?
	(To whom is he going?)
naproti	*Auto je zaparkováno naproti obchodu.*
(opposite, facing, on the other side of)	(The car is parked opposite the store.)
proti	*Nic proti tomu nemám.*
(against)	(I have nothing against it.)

2.3.4 Accusative Case (Fourth Case)

The accusative case functions for the most part without prepositions. It is used mainly with transitive verbs to denote the direct object. The direct object is always without a preposition.

2.3.4.1 Direct Accusative Functions

The object of a transitive verb:

Mám bratra.	(I have a brother.)
Koupil jsem nové auto.	(I bought a new car.)
Stavějí most.	(They are building a bridge.)

The direct accusative is also used in expressions of time.

Byl tam celý rok.	(He was there the whole year.)
Čekal jsem na vás jednu hodinu.	(I waited for you one hour.)
Viděl jsem ho jen chvili.	(I saw him only for a while.)

2.3.4.2 Accusative Case with Prepositions

Several prepositions require accusative case agreement:

pro	*Udělal to pro své přátele.*
(for)	(He did it for his friends.)
přes	*Cesta vede přes město.*
(across, over)	(The road goes through the town.)

Note the use of the accusative case denoting the objective of motion. Note also the preposition.

na	*Jedu na univerzitu.*
(to)	(I'm going to the university.)
před	*Jdu před dům.*
(in front)	(I'm going to the front of the house.)
pod	*Tašku jsem dal pod stůl.*
(under)	(I put the briefcase under the table.)

(For more information on prepositions, see Prepositions, Chapter 8.)

2.3.5 Vocative Case (Fifth Case)

The vocative case is always direct. It is used when someone is addressed. Occasionally things may also be addressed in a poetic form.

Pavle, dej mi tu knihu!	(Paul, give me that book!)
Pane Procházko, jak se máte?*	(Mr. Prochazka, how are you?)
Pane Novák, kdy bude ta schůze?	(Mr. Novak, when is the meeting?)

* In spoken Czech the name is usually not declined after the title *pan*.

Provedu, pane poručíku.	("I'll carry it out, Lieutenant" response to a command, meaning, "Yes Sir")

2.3.6 Locative Case (Sixth Case)

This case always requires a preposition. The locative case is also called the prepositional case. The most frequent structures using this case are those which indicate location or those which indicate the theme or content of a speech, book, document, etc.

Location, prepositions ***v (ve)***, ***na***:

Byl jsem v Brně.	(I was in Brno.)
Co je v krabici?	(What's in the box?)
On studuje na universitě.	(He studies at the university.)
Byl jsem na koncertě.	(I was at a concert.)

(The preposition ***na*** can also take the accusative case if the idea of motion towards a certain destination is meant rather than location. See: 2.3.4.2, Accusative Case with Prepositions.)

Theme or content, preposition **o**:

Neví nic o politice.	(He doesn't know anything about politics.)
Mluví často o svých dětech.	(He often talks about his children.)

Note: The prepositions **o** and **v** may also take the accusative after certain verbs and idiomatic constructions:

On věří v Boha.	(He believes in God.)
Zajímám se o tu dívku.	(I am interested in that girl.)

The preposition **po** (after) frequently takes the locative case agreement:

Po obědě půjdu domů.	(After dinner I'll go home.)

2.3.7 Instrumental Case (Seventh Case)

The instrumental case has a great variety of stuctures that function without prepositions and others that require prepositions.

2.3.7.1 Direct Instrumental Case

The direct instrumental denotes the instrument of action:

Utáhni to šroubovákem!	(Tighten it with a screwdriver!)
Natřel to červenou barvou.	(He painted it with red paint.)
Mává na nás rukou.	(He is waving his hand at us.)

The direct instrumental denotes a means of conveyance.

Pojedeme do Prahy autem.	(We'll go to Prague by car.)
Vlakem to je rychlejší.	(It's quicker by train.)

The direct instrumental can denote circumstances of action - place, time, manner, and cause. (In such cases, the instrumental has an adverbial function.)

Place (meaning through)

Jeli jsme parkem.	(We went through the park.)
Jeli jsme lesem.	(We went through the woods.)
Kterou cestou jste jel?	(Which route did you take?)

Time

Pojedeme do Prahy koncem měsíce. (We'll go to Prague by the end of the month.)
Kurs začíná začátkem září. (The course starts at the beginning of September.)

Manner

Turbina se točí plnou rychlostí. (The turbine is spinning at full speed.)
Jdu pomalým krokem. (I am taking small steps.)
Mluví tichým hlasem. (He is speaking in a quiet voice.)

Cause

Umřely hladem. (They died from hunger.)
Probudil se bolestí. (He was awakened by the pain.)

The direct instrumental is used in describing status of being, becoming or change:

Zůstal svobodným. (He remained single.)
Stal se ředitelem. (He became director.)
Udělali ho důstojníkem. (They promoted him to an officer.)

The direct instrumental functions as a complement of the verb ***být*** (to be), denoting a profession, capacity or function:

Můj otec je učitelem. (My father is a teacher.)
Praha je hlavním městem Československa. (Prague is the capital of Czechoslovakia.)
Jeho sestra je zdravotní sestrou. (His sister is a nurse.)

The direct instrumental functions as a modifier of adjectival complement:

Praha je známá svými historickými budovami.
(Prague is known for its historical buildings.) (The words *známá* is an adjectival form.)

Jsem si tím jistý. (I'm sure of it.) (*jistý*, an adjectival from)
On je známý svou povahou. (He is known for his character.) (*známý*, adj.)

The agent in a passive construction has a direct instrumental form:

Dopis byl napsán Marií. (The letter was written by Maria.)
Práce byla udělána dobrým tesařem. (This job was done by a good carpenter.)
Kočka byla přejeta autem. (The cat was run over by a car.)

A number of verbs require direct instrumental case governance:

zabývat se	(to occupy oneself with, be interested in)
Zabývat se mechanikou.	(He is interested in mechanics.)
trpět	(to suffer from)
Trpí nespavostí.	(He suffers from insomnia.)
vonět	(to smell of)
Voní kolínskou.	(He smells of cologne.)

2.3.7.2 Instrumental Case with Prepositions

A number of prepostions take the instrumental case: The most frequent instrumental case preposition is ***s*** (with). The other prepositions which govern the instrumental case usually function in structures which describes location.

s (with)	*Mluvila s učitelem.*	(She spoke with the teacher.)
pod (under)	*Auto je pod mostem.*	(The car is under the bridge.)
nad (above)	*Obraz visí nad stolem.*	(The picture hangs above the table.)
za (behind)	*Zahrada je za domem.*	(The garden is behind the house.)
před (in front of)	*Děti si hrají před domem.*	(The children are playing in front of the house)
mezi (between)	*Ona stála mezi dvěma auty.*	(She was standing between two cars.)

The prepositions ***pod, nad, za, před,*** and ***mezi*** can also function in constructions which have accusative case agreement. These constructions are used after the verbs of motion. (See Accusative)

2.4 Masculine Noun Endings

Masculine nouns have four basic systems of noun declensions corresponding to the animate and inanimate, soft and hard divisions. There is an additional fifth system of masculine endings called mixed declension. This applies to a limited group of masculine nouns which have mixed feminine and masculine endings in the cases. These systems of endings function in singular and plural, as most other noun endings do.

2.4.1 Masculine Groups, Singular:

	Hard animate	Hard inanimate
NOMINATIVE	*student* (student)	*hrad* (castle)
GENITIVE	*studenta*	*hradu*
DATIVE	*studentovi*	*hradu*
ACCUSATIVE	*studenta*	*hrad*
VOCATIVE	*studente*	*hrade*
LOCATIVE	o *studentovi*	*hradu, -ě*
INSTRUMENTAL	*studentem*	*hradem*
	Soft animate	**Soft inanimate**
NOMINATIVE	*muž* (man)	*stroj* (machine)
GENITIVE	*muže*	*stroje*
DATIVE	*muži, -ovi**	*stroji*
ACCUSATIVE	*muže*	*stroj*
VOCATIVE	*muži*	*stroji*
LOCATIVE	o *muži, -ovi*	*stroji*
INSTRUMENTAL	*mužem*	*strojem*

(*The second ending is more colloquial.)

2.4.1.1 Notes on the Masculine Declensions (General)

1. Masculine nouns which end in the vowel **-e** have soft declensions. Most of these nouns are animate, e.g., *soudce* (judge), *správce* (administrator), *příjemce* (receiver).

2. Masculine nouns which are adjectival in form are declined like hard and soft adjectives. (See adjectives.)

3. Some noun stems have alternate vowels as different case forms are added:

ů - o	(Nom.)	*vůl*	(ox)	-	(Acc.)	*vola*		
	(Nom.)	*dům*	(house)	-	(Acc.)	*dům* -	(Loc.)	*o domu*
i - ě	(Nom.)	*vítr*	(wind)	-	(Loc.)	*o větru*		

4. The vowel **e** is frequently dropped:

a. Suffixes ***-ek, -ec, -en*** lose the **e**.

(Nom.)	*pátek* (Friday)	- (Loc.)	*o pátku*
(Nom.)	*letec* (pilot)	- (Inst.)	*s letcem*
(Nom.)	*leden* (January	- (Loc.)	*v lednu*

b. One-syllable words frequently lose the **e**.

(Nom.)	*pes* (dog)	- (Acc.)	*psa*
(Nom.)	*sen* (dream)	- (Loc.)	*ve snu*
(Nom.)	*křest* (baptism)	- (Loc.)	*o křtu* (Note the loss of the consonant s)

c. One-syllable nouns containing long vowels lose vowel length in the declension:

(Nom.)	*práh* (threshold)	- (Loc.)	*na prahu*
(Nom.)	*chléb* (bread)	- (Inst.)	*s chlebem*
(Nom.)	*hrách* (peas)	- (Loc.)	*o hrachu*
(Nom.)	*líh* (alcohol)	- (Loc.)	*v lihu*

2.4.1.2 Notes on the Masculine Case Endings, Singular

1. In the animate nouns genitive and accusative case endings are the same. In the inanimate nouns the nominative and accusative forms are the same.

2. The dative and locative case have similar endings.

3. GENITIVE. Some hard inanimate nouns in the Genitive Case have an **-a** ending:

   a. Certain months - *leden* (January), *únor* (February), *březen* (March), *duben* (April), *květen* (May), *červen* (June), *srpen* (August), *říjen* (October)

   b. Certain days of the week have the following construction:

   pondělí (Monday) - *do pondělka* (until)
   úterý (Tuesday) - *od úterka* (since)
   čtvrtek (Thursday) - *do čvrtka* (until)

   c. Nouns having the suffix **-ov**:

   u ostrova (at the island)

   d. Geographical names having the suffix **-ín**, **-ýn** and **-ov** :

   Berlín - do Berlína, Kolín - do Kolína, Radotín - do Radotína, Mnichov (Munich) - *do Mnichova, Broumov - do Broumova* and some other geographic names, Czech as well as foreign e.g.: *Beroun, Řím, Milán, Jeruzalém, Betlém, Egypt.*

   e. Many other words must be memorized: *les* (forest), *dvůr* (yard), *mlýn* (mill), *sklep* (basement), *chlév* (barn), *svět* (world), *kostel* (church), *rybník* (pond), *chléb* (bread), *sýr* (cheese), *národ* (nation), *tábor* (camp), *život* (life) *potok* (creek), *oběd* (lunch), *dobytek* (cattle), *jazyk* (language), *zákon* (law), *bochník* (loaf), *večer* (evening) and many others.

4. DATIVE. If two hard animate nouns in the dative case come together, the first will have an **-u** ending, the second **-ovi**, so that **-ovi** will not be used twice.

   Jdu k panu Novákovi - (I'm going to Mr. Novak.)
   Note, however: *k zubaři* vs. *k Tomášovi, k panu Švarcovi*
   (Soft proper names take hard ending **-ovi**)
   but *Napsal Tomáši Edisonovi.*

   and remember these: *k člověku, ke králi,* and *k Bohu*

5. VOCATIVE. Hard animate nouns in the vocative case generally end in **-e**:

Karel (Charles)	-	*Karle*
Otakar (Otto)	-	*Otakare*

Jakub (Jacob)	-	*Jakube*
člověk (man, human being)	-	*člověče*
Bůh (God)	-	*Bože*

The consonant ***r*** is softened when it appears in a final cluster:

Petr (Peter)	-	*Petře*
bratr (brother)	-	*bratře*

Soft animate nouns ending in the suffix ***-ec***, change the consonant to ***č***.

velvyslanec (ambassador)	-	*velvyslanče*
otec (father)	-	*otče*

Nouns ending in the consonants ***-h***, ***-ch***, and ***-k*** have an ***-u*** vocative case ending:

soudruh (Comrade)	-	*soudruhu*
Jindřich (Henry)	-	*Jindřichu*
poručík (Lieutenant)	-	*poručíku*

The first name *Jiří* remains unchaged because it is adjectival in form.
The last name is usually not declined after *pan* (Mr.).

Jak se máte, pane Novák? (How are you Mr. Novak?)

The last name is, however, declined after *soudruh* (comrade).

Co děláš, soudruhu Nováku? (What are you doing, Comrade Novak?)

6. LOCATIVE. Hard nouns in the locative case end in ***-ě***, ***-e***, or ***-u***.

-ě appears after the hard consonants ***d***, ***t***, and the neutral consonants ***b***, ***p***, ***v*** and ***m***.
-e appears after the neutral consonants ***l***, ***s***, and ***z***.
-u appears after the hard consonants ***h***, ***ch***, ***k***, ***n*** and ***r***.

-ě	*západ* (west)	- *na západě* (in the West)
	plot (fence)	- *na plotě* (on the fence)
	hrob (grave)	- *v hrobě* (in the grave)
	příkop (ditch)	- *v příkopě* (in the ditch)
	Mnichov (Munich)	- *v Mnichově* (in Munich)
	strom (tree)	- *na stromě* (on the tree)
-e	*stůl* (table)	- *na stole* (on the table)
	les (woods)	- *v lese* (in the woods)
	vůz (car)	- *ve voze* (in the car)
-u	*práh* (threshold)	- *na prahu* (on the threshold)
	prach (dust)	- *v prachu* (in the dust)
	krk (neck)	- *na krku* (on the neck)
	kámen (stone)	- *na kamenu* (on the stone)
	motor (motor)	- *v motoru* (in the motor)

Occasionally, nouns whose stems end in **-k** or **- r** and have an **-u** ending in the locative may have a variant form ending in **-e**. In such cases a sound change takes place.

potok (creek)	- *v potoku* or *v potoce* (in the creek)
tábor (camp)	- *v táboru* or *v táboře* (in the camp)

There are a number of nouns, mostly one-syllable nouns, which may take an **-u** ending or an **-e** (or **ě**) ending. The use of the particular ending is determined by the preposition:

most (bridge) - *na mostě* (on the bridge), but *o mostu* (about the bridge)
strom (tree) - *na stromě* (on the tree), but *o stromu* (about the tree)

2.4.2 Mixed Masculine Declension, Singular

NOMINATIVE	*předseda* (chairman)
GENITIVE	*předsedy*
DATIVE	*předsedovi*
ACCUSATIVE	*předsedu*
VOCATIVE	*předsedo*
LOCATIVE	*o předsedovi*
INSTRUMENTAL	*předsedou*

Foreign words which in English have the suffix ***-ist*** have an equivalent endig-***ista*** in Czech. Nouns with this ending belong to the mixed declension, e. g. *fašista* (fascist), *kapitalista* (capitalist), *komunista* (communist). Male family names which are feminine in form are declined like the mixed masculine forms. The name *Procházka* is declined like *předseda*, e.g., in the locative case *o panu Procházkovi*.

2.4.3 Irregular Masculine Declension, Singular

Foreign nouns ending in ***-us***, ***-eus***, ***-os***, ***-es***, ***-as*** will drop this suffix and place hard masculine ending directly on the stem e.g.:, *socialismus - o socialismu, nukleus - o nukleu, Herodotos - o Herodotovi, Aristoteles - o Aristotelovi, Pythagoras - o Pythagorovi.*

Words which have been fully integrated in the Czech language may behave like other regular hard nouns, e.g.: *cirkus - do cirkusu, luxus - o luxusu, globus - na globu* (or *globusu*), *kaktus - vedle kaktusu, chaos - v chaosu, patos - s patosem*, etc.

Some hard nouns may take in sg. soft ending . See the pattern *plamen* (flame) and *den* (The one-syllable word *den* (day) loses the vowel ***e***):

NOMINATIVE	*plamen*	*den*
GENITIVE	*plamene*	*dne*
DATIVE	*plameni*	*dni*
ACCUSATIVE	*plamen*	*den*
LOCATIVE	*o plameni*	*dni*
INSTRUMENTAL	*plamenem*	*dnem*

Most of the inanimate nouns ending in **-en** will follow this pattern (*den, týden, kámen, hřeben, kořen, pramen, řemen*). Some of these may also use in the locative case the ending **-u** (*v týdnu, na kamenu, na hřebenu*) Note: *ve dne*

The animate noun *kněz* (priest) is a special case. It declines like the soft noun *muž*.

2.4.4 Basic Masculine Groups, Plural:

	Hard animate	Hard inanimate
NOMINATIVE	*studenti*	*hrady*
GENITIVE	*studentů*	*hradů*
DATIVE	*studentům*	*hradům*
ACCUSATIVE	*studenty*	*hrady*
VOCATIVE	*studenti*	*hrady*
LOCATIVE	*o studentech*	*hradech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*studenty*	*hrady*
	Soft animate	**Soft inanimate**
NOMINATIVE	*muži*	*stroje*
GENITIVE	*mužů*	*strojů*
DATIVE	*mužům*	*strojům*
ACCUSATIVE	*muže*	*stroje*
VOCATIVE	*muži*	*stroje*
LOCATIVE	*o mužích*	*strojích*
INSTRUMENTAL	*muži*	*stroji*

2.4.4.1 Notes on the Masculine, Plural Endings

1. NOMINATIVE. The most frequent nominative case, plural endings for hard animate nouns is the vowel **-i**. The **-i** functions:

   a. This vowel has a softening effect on preceding consonants. (See: Section 1.6.1.) The hard consonants **d, t, n** will be pronounced as their soft counterparts.

   kamarád (friend, pal) - *kamarádi*
   student (student) - *studenti*
   syn (son) - *syni*

b. The hard consonants ***h, ch, k, r*** undergo a sound change:

h	⇒	***z***	*soudruh*	(comrade)	-	*soudruzi*
ch	⇒	***š***	*černoch*	(Black man)	-	*černoši*
k	⇒	***c***	*voják*	(soldier)	-	*vojáci*
r	⇒	***ř***	*bratr*	(brother)	-	*bratři*

c. The neutral consonants do not undergo sound change:

mikrob (microbe)	-	*mikrobi*
pes (dog)	-	*psi*

A number of animate masculine nouns have an ***-ové*** or ***-é*** ending.

The ***-ové*** plural ending functions with the following groups of nouns:

a. names of people: *Pavlové, Petrové, Václavové*, etc.

b. members of the same family: *Novákové, Škopkové, Černíkové, Pospíšilové, Lucemburkové, Hohenzollernové*, etc.

members of some dynasties are, however: *Přemyslovci, Kapetovci, Arpadovci, Romanovci*, etc.

c. someone or two syllable nouns denoting members of various nationalities: *Ind - Indové, Arab - Arabové, Řek - Řekové, Rus - Rusové, Ital - Italové*, but *Čech - Češi, Slovák - Slováci, Mad'ar - Mad'aři, Polák - Poláci, Rumun - Rumuni*

d. feudal titles: *král* (king) - *králové, císař* (emperor) - *císařové, papež* - (pope) *papežové, princ* (prince) - *princové, car* (tsar) - *carové*, but *pán* (lord) - *páni* (lords) and *pánové* (gentlemen).

e. nouns of foreign origin ending in a neutral consonant: *filozof - filozofové, chirurg - chirurgové, generál - generálové, admirál - admirálové, detektiv - detektivové, biskup - biskupové, intelektuál - intelektuálové*

f. some other: *člen* (member) - *členové, tvor* (creature) - *tvorové, živočich* (living creature) - *živočichové*

g. some, especially those ending in ***-ek***, ***-ik*** and ***-ce***, can have both forms : ***svědek*** (witness) - ***svědci*** or ***svědkové***, ***akademik*** (academician) - ***akademici*** or ***akademikové***, ***soudce*** (judge) - ***soudci*** or ***soudcové***

Some nouns can take both the ***-i*** and ***-ové*** endings. The ***-ové*** ending is usually higher in style or may convey a slightly different meaning.

syn (son)	-	***syni*** (sons)	-	***synové českého národa*** (sons of the Czech nation)
muž (man)	-	***muži*** (men)	-	***mužové Francouzské revoluce*** (leaders of the French Revolution)
pán (lord)	-	***páni*** (lords)	-	***pánové*** (gentlemen)
Čech (Czech)	-	***Češi*** (Czechs)	-	***staří Čechové*** (old Bohemians)

The ***-é*** plural is used with:

a. All animate nouns ending in the suffix ***-tel*** will have the plural ***-telé***.

učitel (teacher)	-	***učitelé***
ředitel (director)	-	***ředitelé***

b. Nationalities ending in ***-an***

Angličan (Englishman)	-	***Angličané***
Američan (American)	-	***Američané***
Kanad'an (Canadian)	-	***Kanaďané***

c. All nouns ending in ***-ista***

komunista (communist)	-	***komunisté***
fašista (fascist)	-	***fašisté***
kapitalista (capitalist)	-	***kapitalisté***

Some others :

host (guest)	-	***hosté***
demokrat (democrat)	-	***demokraté***

In colloquial speech, the ending ***-i*** can be used in all cases described in paragraphs b and c.

2. GENITIVE. Some nouns drop the **-ů** ending.

přítel (friend)	-	*mnoho přátel* (many friends)
obyvatel (inhabitant)	-	*mnoho obyvatel* (many inhabitants)
tisíc (thousand)	-	*mnoho tisíc* (many thousands)
peníze (money)	-	*mnoho peněz* (much money)

(See also the declension of irregular nouns, Section 2.4.6)

3. LOCATIVE. Hard inanimate nouns ending in **-h**, **-ch**, **-k** usually have the ending -ich in the locative plural. The vowel **-i-** in the suffix effects a sound change.

soudruh (comrade)	-	*o soudruzích* (about comrades)
černoch (Blackman)	-	*o černoších* (about Blacks)
voják (soldier)	-	*o vojácích* (about soldiers)

In colloquial speech, hard inanimate nouns may also have the ending **-ách**.

trh (market)	-	*o trzích* or *trhách* (about markets)
kulich (a kind of warm cap)	-	*o kulichách*, rarely *o kuliších* (about warm caps)
potok (creek)	-	*v potocích* or *v potokách* (in creeks)

Also some nouns ending in **-el**, **-ep** and **-es** may also prefer **-ích** ending: *hotel - v hotelích, sklep - ve sklepích, les* - (always) *v lesích.*

2.4.5 Mixed Masculine Declension, Plural

NOMINATIVE	*předsedové* (chairman)
GENITIVE	*předsedů*
DATIVE	*předsedům*
ACCUSATIVE	*předsedy*
VOCATIVE	*předsedové*
LOCATIVE	*o předsedech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*předsedy*

In the locative the ending ***-ích*** also appears when the noun ends in ***-ha***, ***-cha***, ***-ka***.

sluha (servant) - *sluhové* (plural)
o sluzích (about servants)

2.4.6 Declension of Irregular Plural Masculine Nouns

	(days)	(horses)	(people)	(money)	(friends)	
NOMINATIVE	*dny* *dni*	*koně*	*lidé* *lidi*	*peníze*	*přátelé*	*Hradčany**
GENITIVE	*dnů* *dní*	*koní*	*lidí*	*peněz*	*přátel*	*Hradčan*
DATIVE	*dnům* *dnům*	*koním*	*lidem*	*penězům*	*přátelům*	*Hradčanům*
ACCUSATIVE	*dny*	*koně*	*lidi*	*peníze*	*přátelé*	*Hradčany*
VOCATIVE	*dny*	*koně*	*lidi*	*peníze*	*přátelé*	*Hradčany*
LOCATIVE	*o dnech* *dních*	*koních*	*lidech*	*penězích*	*přátelích*	*Hradčanech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*dny*	*koňmi*	*lidmi*	*penězi*	*přáteli*	*Hradčany*

(* Name of the Prague castle; plural in form.)

NOMINATIVE	*kněží*	*oblaka*
GENITIVE	*kněží*	*oblak*
DATIVE	*kněžím*	*oblakům*
ACCUSATIVE	*kněze*	*oblaka*
LOCATIVE	*o kněžích*	*oblacích*
INSTRUMENTAL	*kněžími*	*oblaky*

The noun *oblak* (cloud) actually changes gender from masculine to neuter in the plural.

2.5 Feminine Noun Endings

Feminine nouns have two basic systems of noun endings, hard and soft. Feminine nouns ending in consonants are a sub-group of the soft nouns. These systems of endings function in singular and plural.

2.5.1 Basic Feminine Noun Groups, Singular

	Hard		Soft	
NOMINATIVE	*žena*	*práce*	*postel*	*kost*
GENITIVE	*ženy*	*práce*	*postele*	*kosti*
DATIVE	*ženě*	*práci*	*posteli*	*kosti*
ACCUSATIVE	*ženu*	*práci*	*postel*	*kost*
VOCATIVE	*ženo*	*práce*	*posteli*	*kosti*
LOCATIVE	o *ženě*	*práci*	*posteli*	*kosti*
INSTRUMENTAL	*ženou*	*prací*	*postelí*	*kostí*

2.5.1.1 Notes on the Feminine Declensions, Singular

1. According to the ***kost*** pattern are declined all feminine nouns ending in:

   -st *společnost* (society), *starost* (worry), *bolest* (pain)

   -p, -s, -v and ***-oc*** *otep* (bundle), *step* (steppe), *směs* (mixture), *obuv* (footwear), *noc* (night)

   some nouns ending in:

   -t', -d' *obět'* (victim), *paměť* (memory), *zeď* (wall), *odpověď* (answer)

   -č, -š, -ž, -c, -z *řeč* (speech, *myš* (mouse), *lež* (lie), *rez* (rust)

   also words *mysl* (mind), *sůl* (*soli*) (salt) and *věc* (thing)

   According to the *postel* pattern are declined all feminine nouns ending in:

   -ň, -ř, -j, -ev, -ec *píseň* (song), *tvář* (cheek), *tramvaj* (tramway), *pánev* (pan), *obec* (community)

most nouns ending in:

-t', - d' *sít'* (net), *hut'* (foundry), *labut'* (swan), *lod'* (ship), *žerd'* (mast)

some nouns ending in

-č, -š, -ž, -l, -z *obruč* (hoop), *rozkoš* (pleasure), *drůbež* (poultry), *věž* (tower), *ocel* (steel), *tvrz* (fort)

2. The noun *paní* (Mrs.) is not declined in the singular.

2.5.1.2 Notes on the Feminine Case Endings, Singular

The endings in the dative and locative case of hard feminine nouns are both the same, either an **-ě** or an **-e** ending. The distribution of these endings is outlined below.

1. The ending **-e** following the hard consonant **h, ch, k,** and **r** causes sound changes.

	Dative	Locative
Praha **h ⇒ z**	*ku Praze*	*o Praze*
(Prague)	(towards Prague)	(about Prague)
socha **ch ⇒ š**	*proti soše*	*na soše*
(statue)	(opposite the statue)	(on the statue)
banka **k ⇒ c**	*proti bance*	*o bance*
(bank)	(opposite the bank)	(about the bank)
hora **r ⇒ ř**	*k hoře*	*na hoře*
(mountain)	(towards the mountain)	(on the mountain)

2. The **-e** ending is used following the neutral consonants **l, s, z**.

	Dative	Locative
škola	*ke škole*	*ve škole*
(school)	(towards the school)	(in the school)
osa	*k ose*	*o ose*
(axis)	(towards the axis)	(about the axis)
koza	*ke koze*	*o koze*
(goat)	(to the goat)	(about the goat)

3. The **-ě** ending is used after the hard consonants **d, t,** and **n** which are then pronounced like their soft counterparts.

	Dative	Locative
zahrada	*proti zahradě*	*na zahradě*
(garden)	(opposite the garden)	(in the garden)

teta	*k tetě*	*o tetě*
(aunt)	(to my aunt's)	(about my aunt)
Helena	*k Heleně*	*o Heleně*
(Helen)	(to Helen's place)	(about Helen)

4. The ***-ě*** ending is used after the remaining neutral consonants ***b, p , m, v***.

	Dative	Locative
kresba	*Nerozuměl té kresbě*	*o kresbě*
(drawing)	(He didn't undertand the drawing.)	(about the drawing)
mapa	*k mapě*	*na mapě*
(map)	(to the map)	(on the map)
máma	*kvůli mámě*	*o mámě*
(mother)	(because of mother)	(about mother)
Vltava	*k Vltavě*	*na Vltavě*
(Moldau)	(towards the Moldau)	(on the Moldau)

5. Note the irregular form of *dcera* - daughter in the dative and locative case : ***dceři***
6. The noun ***čest*** changes completely in genitive, dative, locative and instrumental cases:

genitive	*cti*	
dative	*cti*	
locative	*cti*	
instrumental	*ctí*	note the long ending

7. Mixed declension of feminine nouns

In some feminine nouns, especially proper names of foreign origin the hard ending ***-a*** is preceded by a soft consonant (***-ča, -ňa, -ša, -ža, -ca, -ja***). These nouns then follow partially the hard pattern ***žena*** and partially the soft pattern ***práce***. The nouns ending in ***-ea*** insert the consonant ***j***:

NOMINATIVE	*Trója*	*Korea*
GENITIVE	*Tróje*	*Koreje*
DATIVE	*Tróji*	*Koreji*
ACCUSATIVE	*Tróju*	*Koreu*
LOCATIVE o	*Tróji*	*Koreji*
INSTRUMENTAL	*Trójou*	*Koreou*

2.5.2 Basic Feminine Groups, Plural

	Hard	Soft		
NOMINATIVE	*ženy*	*práce*	*postele*	*kosti*
GENITIVE	*žen*	*prací*	*postelí*	*kostí*
DATIVE	*ženám*	*pracím*	*postelím*	*kostem*
ACCUSATIVE	*ženy*	*práce*	*postele*	*kosti*
VOCATIVE	*ženy*	*práce*	*postele*	*kosti*
LOCATIVE	o *ženách*	*pracích*	*postelích*	*kostech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*ženami*	*pracemi*	*postelemi*	*kostmi*

2.5.2.1 Notes on the Feminine Case Endings, Plural

1. Hard feminine nouns form the genitive plural by dropping all endings and using the stem.

žena (woman)	- *několik žen* (several women)
mapa (map)	- *šest map* (six maps)
cesta (road)	- *několik cest* (several roads)
hvězda (star)	- *mnoho hvězd* (many stars)
lampa (lamp)	- *několik lamp* (several lamps)
banka (bank)	- *hodně bank* (many banks)

51

2. Note that the following nouns whose stems end in a consonantal cluster add an - **e** - to make pronunciation easier.

dívka (girl)	- *mnoho dívek* (many girls)
studentka (student, fem.)	- *studentek* (many students)
sestra (sister)	- *několik sester* (several sisters)

3. When two-syllable hard feminine nouns form the genitive plural and become one-syllable words, vowel length may change.

síla (power)	- *sto koňských sil* (100 HP)
brána (gate)	- *mnoho bran* (many gates)
míra (measurement)	- *mnoho měr* (many measurements)
moucha (fly)	- *mnoho much* (many flies)
díra (hole)	- *několik děr* (several holes)

but

vzpoura (mutiny)	- *několik vzpour* (several mutinies)
roura (pipe)	- *deset rour* (ten pipes)

4. Soft feminine nouns which have suffixes ***-ice, -ice, -ile, -ile*** and ***-yně*** do not have the ***-i*** genitive plural ending:

krabice (box)	- *několik krabic* (several boxes)
lžíce (spoon)	- *pět lžic* (five spoons)
košile (shirt)	- *několik košil* (several shirts)
chvíle (moment)	- *mnoho hezkých chvil* (many nice moments)
přítelkyně (girlfriend)	- *několik přítelkyň* (several girlfriends)

Notice that vowel length may also change.

5. Note the irregular instrumental construction: ***za dveřmi*** (behind the door).

2.6 Neuter Noun Endings

Neuter nouns have two basic systems of noun endings, for hard nouns and soft nouns in singular and plural.

2.6.1 Basic Neuter Noun Groups, Singular

	Hard	Soft	
NOMINATIVE	*město*	*pole*	*nádraží*
GENITIVE	*města*	*pole*	*nádraží*
DATIVE	*městu*	*poli*	*nádraží*
ACCUSATIVE	*město*	*pole*	*nádraží*
VOCATIVE	*město*	*pole*	*nádraží*
LOCATIVE	*o městu, -ě*	*poli*	*nádraží*
INSTRUMENTAL	*městem*	*polem*	*nádražím*

All nouns of foreign origin which have the suffix **-*um*** (*muzeum, stadium*) are neuter. They follow the declension pattern of *město*. The suffix is dropped in the declension pattern, except for the accusative case.

2.6.1.1 Notes on the Neuter, Singular Endings

All hard neuter nouns have a locative, singular ending **-*u***. Some neuter nouns may have an alternate ending **-*e***, or **-*ě*** in the locative, which is optional.

The **-*e*** ending follows stem consonants ***l, s, z***.

v jídlu or *v jídle*	(in the food)
po masu or *po mase*	(after meat)
na korzu or *na korze*	(on the promenade)

The **-*ě*** ending follows stem consonants ***d, t, n***.

o tornádu or *o tornádě*	(about the tornado)
v blátu or *v blátě*	(in the mud)
na oknu or *na okně*	(on the window)

Should the neuter noun end in **-*ro*** or **-*cho,*** the ending **-*e*** will soften it e.g., *patro* (floor) - *v patře, stříbro* (silver) - *ve stříbře, pouzdro* (case) - *v pouzdře*. Those nouns ending in **-*ctvo*, -*stvo,*** or **-*ivo*** almost always use the hard ending **-*u***, e.g., *letectvo* (airforce) - *v letectvu, lidstvo* (mankind) - *v lidstvu, palivo* (fuel) - *v palivu*.

2.6.2 Basic Neuter Noun Groups, Plural

	Hard	Soft	
NOMINATIVE	*města*	*pole*	*nádraží*
GENITIVE	*měst*	*polí*	*nádraží*
DATIVE	*městům*	*polím*	*nádražím*
ACCUSATIVE	*města*	*pole*	*nádraží*
VOCATIVE	*města*	*pole*	*nádraží*
LOCATIVE	o *městech*	*polích*	*nádražích*
INSTRUMENTAL	*městy*	*polemi*	*nádražími*

2.6.2.1 Notes on the Neuter, Plural Endings

1. GENITIVE. Hard neuter nouns form the genitive, plural like feminine nouns by dropping the ending and using the stem. When the stem ends in a consonantal cluster that is difficult to pronounce, an **-e-** is inserted:

okno (window) - *mnoho oken* (many windows)
křeslo (armchair) - *několik křesel* (several armchairs)
ministerstvo (ministry) - *kolik ministerstev* (how many ministeries)

But: *město* (town) - *mnoho měst* (many towns)
Note also: *sto* (hundred) - *několik set* (several hundreds)

Soft neuter nouns which have the suffix ***-iště*** do not have the *i* genitive plural ending.

hřiště (playing field) - *několik hřišť* (several playing fields)
parkoviště (parking lot) - *pět parkovišť* (five parking lots)

The genitive plural of *vejce* (egg) is *vajec*.

2. LOCATIVE. Hard neuter nouns whose stems end in the consonants ***h, ch, k***, and ***r*** generally take an ***-ách*** ending instead of ***-ech***.

vojsko (army) - *ve vojskách* (in the armies)

3. Neuter nouns of foreign origin having the suffix ***-um*** will use two sets of endings, depending whether the suffix is preceded by a consonant or a vowel *(muzeum* vs. *sérum)*.

nominative		*muzea*	*séra*
genitive		*muzeí*	*sér*
dative		*muzeím*	*sérům*
accusative		*muzea*	*séra*
locative	o	*muzeích*	*sérech*
instrumental		*muzei*	*séry*

The sound ***-j-*** is pronounced between the stem vowel - ***e*** - and the ending vowel.

The noun rádio - *rádio* is declined like *muzeum*.

2.6.3 Irregular Neuter Nouns

A small group of neuter nouns, mainly those denoting animals' young, have declension patterns which differ from those previously illustrated. The particle ***-et-*** is inserted between the stem and ending in the singular and ***-at*** in the plural.

	Singular	Plural
NOMINATIVE	*zvíře (animal)*	*zvířata*
GENITIVE	*zvířete*	*zvířat*
DATIVE	*zvířeti*	*zvířatům*
ACCUSATIVE	*zvíře*	*zvířata*
VOCATIVE	*zvíře*	*zvířata*
LOCATIVE	o *zvířeti*	*zvířatech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*zvířetem*	*zvířaty*

(Note that the plural endings are similar to the hard pattern of *město*.)

Nouns which follow this pattern:

1. Animal young
   mládě (a young animal, cub), *hříbě* (colt), *sele* (piglet), *tele* (calf), *štěně* (puppy), *kuře* (chicken), *kotě* (kitten)

2. Nouns which do not denote animals' young
   dítě (child, in singular only), *prase* (pig), *děvče* (girl), *koště* (broom)

3. Some masculine nouns denoting feudal titles which were originally neuter in form
   kníže (prince), *hrabě* (count), *páže* (page)

The declension of the neuter noun *dítě* (child) is irregular. The singular follows the *zvíře* pattern. The plural differs:

NOMINATIVE	*děti*
GENITIVE	*dětí*
DATIVE	*dětem*
ACCUSATIVE	*děti*
VOCATIVE	*děti*
LOCATIVE	o *dětech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*dětmi*

Among the neuter nouns that insert the infix **-et-**, **-at** - belong also a number of foreign words, mostly of Greek origin, which end in **-a,** e.g., *drama* (drama), *téma* (theme), *dogma* (dogma), *panorama* (panorama).

	singular	plural
NOMINATIVE	*drama*	*dramata*
GENITIVE	*dramatu*	*dramat*
DATIVE	*dramatu*	*dramatům*
ACCUSATIVE	*drama*	*dramata*
LOCATIVE	o *dramatu*	o *dramatech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*dramatem*	*dramaty*

2.7 Dual Declension

A few feminine and neuter nouns which denote paired parts of the body retain in the plural an old dual declension system *oko* (eye), *ucho* (ear), *ruka* (hand), *rameno* (shoulder), *koleno* (knee), *prsa* (chest), *noha* (leg).

NOMINATIVE		*oči*	*uši*	*ruce*	*ramena*	*nohy*
GENITIVE		*očí*	*uší*	*rukou*	*ramenou*	*nohou*
DATIVE		*očím*	*uším*	*rukám*	*ramenům*	*nohám*
ACCUSATIVE		*oči*	*uši*	*ruce*	*ramena*	*nohy*
VOCATIVE		*oči*	*uši*	*ruce*	*ramena*	*nohy*
LOCATIVE	*o*	*očích*	*o uších*	*o rukou*	*o ramenou*	*o nohách*
INSTRUMENTAL		*očima*	*ušima*	*rukama*	*ramenama*	*nohama*

In colloquial speech, the genitive form may also be *ruk, ramen, noh.*

The dual declension also influences adjectival endings in the instrumental case, plural. When an adjective modifies one of the nouns mentioned above, instead of an ***-ými*** ending, it will have an ***-ýma*** ending:

Mluvil jsem s těmi mladými dívkami.
(I talked with those young girls.)
Dívala se na něho svýma modrýma očima.
(She looked at him with her blue eyes.)

2.8 Nouns Only in Plural

A number of nouns occur only in plural, or the plural may have a different meaning than the singular form. Below are some examples:

Singular	Plural
hodina (hour, lesson)	*hodiny* (hours, a clock)
	hodinky (watch)
lid (people, folk, nation)	*lidé* (people)
novina (piece of news)	*noviny* (newspaper)
	dveře (door)

	hrábě (rake)
peníz (coin)	*peníze* (money)
	šaty (clothing)
	kamma (oven)
	vrata (gate)
	Čechy (Bohemia)
	muka (torture)
	kasárna (military barracks)

For the correct declension of these nouns, it is essential to know the gender of an actual or hypothetical singular form, e.g., *šaty* (masculine - *šat*), *hodinky* (feminine - *hodinka*), *kamna* (neuter), *kasárna* (neuter), *Čechy* (feminine), *peníze* (masculine).

Most Czech geographic names ending in **-ice** are plural in form: *Strakonice*, *Příběnice*, *Malešovice*, etc.

3. PRONOUNS

Pronouns have two functions: - 1) they substitute for nouns, or 2) they modify nouns, thus functioning like adjectives. They have all the grammatical features that nouns have: gender, case, and number. Pronouns may be classified into eight categories according to their functions in a sentence:

1. Personal pronouns - *já* (I), *ty* (you [familiar form]), *oni* (they), etc.
2. Interrogative pronouns - *kdo* (who), *co* (what), *který* (which [one]), etc.
3. Demonstrative pronouns - *ten* (that), *tento* (this), *tamten* (the ... over there), etc.
4. Possessive pronouns - *můj* (my), *jeho* (his), *váš* (your), etc.
5. Reflexive pronouns (personal or possessive) - *sebe* (himself), *svůj* (his [own]), etc.
6. Relative pronouns - *jenž* (who), *jehož* (whose), etc.
7. Negative pronouns - *žádný* (none), *nic* (nothing), *nikdo* (no one), etc.
8. Indefinitive pronouns - *někdo* (someone), *něco* (something), *nějaký* (some [kind of]), etc.

The pronouns *všechen* and *každý* are also presented in this chapter.

3.1 Personal Pronouns

	Singular				
NOMINATIVE	*já* (I)	*ty* (you)	*on* (he)	*ona* (she)	*ono* (it)
GENITIVE	*mě, mne*	*tě, tebe*	*ho, jeho*	*jí*	*ho, jeho*
			u něho	*u ní*	*u něho*
DATIVE	*mi, mně*	*ti, tobě*	*mu, jemu*	*jí*	*jemu*
			k němu	*k ní*	*k němu*
ACCUSATIVE	*mě, mne*	*tě, tebe*	*ho, jeho*	*ji*	*ho, jeho*
			pro něho	*pro ni*	*pro něho*
LOCATIVE	*o mně*	*o tobě*	*o něm*	*o ní*	*o něm*
INSTRUMENTAL	*se mnou*	*s tebou*	*jím*	*jí*	*jím*
			s ním	*s ní*	*s ním*

		Plural	
NOMINATIVE	*my* (we)	*vy* (you)	*oni, ony, ona* (they)
GENITIVE	*nás*	*vás*	*jich, u nich*
DATIVE	*nám*	*vám*	*jim, k nim*
ACCUSATIVE	*nás*	*vás*	*je, pro ně*
LOCATIVE	*o nás*	*vás*	*nich*
INSTRUMENTAL	*námi*	*vámi*	*jimi, s nimi*

Notes on the Personal Pronouns

1. Personal pronouns are not used as the subject of a sentence, except for emphasis. The verb forms have person endings, so that confusion does not exist.

Píši dopis.	*Já píši dopis.*
(I am writing a letter)	(I am writing a letter.)
Píše dopis.	*On píše dopis.*
(He is wrriting a letter.)	(He is writing a letter.)

2. The **ty** forms are used in familiar speech. The plural forms of **vy** are normally used between adults who are not on familiar basis:

Familiar "you" - *Co ty děláš?* (What are you doing?)
Polite "you" - *Co vy děláte?* (What are you doing?)

3. The pronouns in the **on** column substitute for masculine nouns, **ona** for feminine nouns, and **ono** for neuter nouns.

4. The pronoun **oni** is used to substitute for masculine animate subjects of a sentence, **ony** for masculine inanimate and feminine subjects, and **ona** for neuter subjects.

5. The genitive, dative, and accusative cases show short and long pronoun variants. The longer forms are used for emphasis.

Řekl mi to včera.	(He told me that yesterday.)
Mně to řekl včera.	(He told it to me yesterday.)

6. The longer pronoun variant is used with prepositions.

Mluvil o tobě.	(He talked about you.)
Udělal to pro tebe.	(He did it for you.)

7. Following prepositions, *ň*-form pronouns substitute for those starting with *j*.

Mluvil s ní. (He talked with her.)
Udělal jsem to pro ně. (I did it for them.)

3.2 Interrogative Pronouns

NOMINATIVE	*kdo* (who?)	*co* (what?)
GENITIVE	*koho*	*čeho*
DATIVE	*komu*	*čemu*
ACCUSATIVE	*koho*	*co*
LOCATIVE	o *kom*	*čem*
INSTRUMENTAL	*kým*	*čím*

	(what kind of) masculine	(which one) masculine	feminine		neuter	
		Singular				
NOMINATIVE	*jaký*	*který*	*jaká*	*která*	*jaké*	*které*
GENITIVE	*jakého*	*kterého*	*jaké*	*které*	*jakého*	*kterého*
DATIVE	*jakému*	*kterému*	*jaké*	*které*	*jakému*	*kterému*
ACCUSATIVE	*jaký*	*který*	*jakou*	*kterou*	*jaké*	*které*
	jakého•	*kterého*•				
LOCATIVE	o *jakém*	*kterém*	*jaké*	*které*	*jakém*	*kterém*
INSTRUMENTAL	*jakým*	*kterým*	*jakou*	*kterou*	*jakým*	*kterým*
		Plural				
NOMINATIVE	*jaké* *jací*•	*které* *kteří*•	*jaké*	*které*	*jaká*	*která*
GENITIVE	*jakých*	*kterých*	*jakých*	*kterých*	*jakých*	*kterých*
DATIVE	*jakým*	*kterým*	*jakým*	*kterým*	*jakým*	*kterým*
ACCUSATIVE	*jaké*	*které*	*jaké*	*které*	*jaká*	*která*
LOCATIVE	o *jakých*	*kterých*	*jakých*	*kterých*	*jakých*	*kterých*
INSTRUMENTAL	*jakými*	*kterými*	*jakými*	*kterými*	*jakými*	*kterými*

•masculine animate forms

The interrogative pronoun ***čí*** (whose) is not declined.

Notes on the Interrogative Pronouns

1. The pronoun group under ***kdo*** is used to form questions about persons, ***co*** to form questions about animals and inanimate objects.

2. All case forms of the pronoun ***jaký*** are used in questions to get responses about the quality or type of a noun.

Jakou televizi máte?	(What kind of television do you have?)
Barevnou.	(A color one .)
Jaké auto máte?	(What kind of a car do you have?)
Americké.	(An American [one].)

3. All case forms of the pronoun ***který*** are used in questions to get responses about a particular member of a group.

Kterým vlakem jste jel do Brna?	(Which train did you take to Brno?)
"Brněnským drakem."	("The Brno Dragon.")

3.3 Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns consist of one basic group and other groups which have been derived from the basic group by adding particles.

3.3.1 Basic Demonstrative Pronoun Group

	Singular			Plural		
	masculine	feminine	neuter	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*ten* (that)	*ta*	*to*	*ti, ty*	*ty*	*ta*
GENITIVE	*toho*	*té*	*toho*	*těch*	*těch*	*těch*
DATIVE	*tomu*	*té*	*tomu*	*těm*	*těm*	*těm*
ACCUSATIVE	*ten, toho•*	*tu*	*to*	*ty*	*ty*	*ta*
LOCATIVE o	*tom*	*té*	*tom*	*těch*	*těch*	*těch*
INSTRUMENTAL	*tím*	*tou*	*tím*	*těmi*	*těmi*	*těmi*

•animate masculine

The demonstrative pronouns may function in a way which is equivalent to the function of the English definite article **the**.

In the masculine pronouns, accusative, ***ten*** is used with inanimate nouns, ***toho*** with inanimate nouns.

In the masculine,nominative plural, ***ti*** is used with animate nouns, ***ty*** is used with inanimates.

3.3.2 Derived Demonstrative Pronouns

Particles are added to the pronouns to be more specific or for emphasis.

tento	*tento člověk*	(this man [here])
tato	*tato kniha*	(this book [here])
toto	*toto pivo*	(this beer [here])
tamten	*tamten člověk*	(that man [there])
tamta	*tamta kniha*	(that book [there])
tamto	*tamto pivo*	(that beer [there])
tenhle	*tenhle člověk*	(this man) Colloquial variants of *tento, tato, toto* frequently used.
tahle	*tahle kniha*	(this book)
tohle	*tohle pivo*	(this beer)

The particles ***-to***, ***-tam***, ***-hle*** are added to all declined forms of the pronouns.

Čtěte tento článek. (Read this article [here].)

Ne tyto cigarety, tamty. (Not these cigarettes, those there.)

Kupte si tuhle knihu. (Buy this book.)

3.3.3 Declension of the Pronouns *týž, tentýž,* etc. (the same)

	Singular		
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*týž, tentýž*	*táž, tatáž*	*totéž*
GENITIVE	*téhož*	*téže*	*téhož*
DATIVE	*témuž*	*téže*	*témuž*
ACCUSATIVE	*téhož,tentýž*	*tutéž*	*totéž*
LOCATIVE	*o témže, tomtéž*	*téže*	*tomže, tomtéž*
INSTRUMENTAL	*týmž, tímtéž*	*toutéž*	*týmž, tímtéž*
	Plural		
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*tíž, titíž, tytéž* (inan.)	*tytéž*	*táž, tatáž*
GENITIVE	*týchž*	*týchž*	*týchž*
DATIVE	*týmž*	*týmž*	*týmž*
ACCUSATIVE	*tytéž*	*tytéž*	*tatáž*
LOCATIVE	*o týchž*	*týchž*	*týchž*
INSTRUMENTAL	*týmiž*	*týmiž*	*týmiž*

In the masculine accusative singular, *téhož* is used with animate nouns, *tentýž* is used with inanimate nouns. In the nominative plural masculine, the animate forms are *tíž, titíž*, the inanimate form is *tytéž*. All other double forms are optional.

Examples:

Cestoval jsem s týmž (tímtéž) mužem pět dní. (I traveled with the same man five days.)

Je to tatáž dívka, kterou jsem viděl v Košicích? (Is that the same girl I saw in Košice?)

3.4 Possessive Pronouns

The possessive pronoun groups are: *můj* (my), *tvůj* (your, [familiar form]), *jeho* (his), *její* (her), *jeho* (its), *náš* (our), *váš* (your), *jejich* (their).

The pronouns *můj* and *tvůj* have the same endings.

Singular

	můj with masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*můj syn*	*má, moje dcera*	*mé, moje dítě*
GENITIVE	*mého syna*	*mé, mojí dcery*	*mého dítěte*
DATIVE	*mému, mojemu synovi*	*mé, mojí dceři*	*mému dítěti*
ACCUSATIVE	*mého syna* (animate) *můj vůz* (inanimate)	*mou, moji dceru*	*mé, moje dítě*
VOCATIVE	*můj synu*	*má, moje dcero*	*mé, moje dítě*
LOCATIVE o	*mém synovi*	*mé, mojí dceři*	*mém dítěti*
INSTRUMENTAL	*mým synem*	*mou, mojí dcerou*	*mým dítětem*

Plural

	můj with masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*mí, moji syni* (animate) *mé, moje vozy* (inanimate)	*mé, moje dcery*	*má, moje štěňata*
GENITIVE	*mých synů,*	*mých dcer*	*mých štěňat*
DATIVE	*mým synům*	*mým dcerám*	*mým štěňatům*
ACCUSATIVE	*mé, moje syny*	*mé, moje dcery*	*má, moje štěňata*
LOCATIVE o	*mých synech*	*mých dcerách*	*mých štěňatech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*mými syny*	*mými dcerami*	*mými štěňaty*

The longer possessive forms are used for emphasis.

65

The possessive pronoun *jeho* (his and its) is not declined.

		Singular	
	její with masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*její syn*	*její dcera*	*její dítě*
GENITIVE	*jejího syna*	*její dcery*	*jejího dítěte*
DATIVE	*jejímu synovi*	*její dceři*	*jejímu dítěti*
ACCUSATIVE	*jejího syna* (animate) *její vůz* (inanimate)	*její dceru*	*její dítě*
LOCATIVE	o *jejím synovi*	*její dceři*	*jejím dítěti*
INSTRUMENTAL	*jejím synem*	*její dcerou*	*jejím dítětem*
		Plural	
	její with masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*její syni*	*její dcery*	*její štěňata*
GENITIVE	*jejích synů*	*jejích dcer*	*jejích štěňat*
DATIVE	*jejím synům*	*jejím dcerám*	*jejím štěňatům*
ACCUSATIVE	*její syny*	*její dcery*	*její štěňata*
LOCATIVE	o *jejích synech*	*jejích dcerách*	*jejích štěňatech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*jejími syny*	*jejími dcerami*	*jejími štěňaty.*

The pronouns ***náš*** and ***váš*** have the same endings.

		Singular	
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*náš syn*	*naše dcera*	*naše dítě*
GENITIVE	*našeho syna*	*naší dcery*	*našeho dítěte*
DATIVE	*našemu synovi*	*naší dceři*	*našemu dítěti*
ACCUSATIVE	*našeho syna* (animate) *náš vůz* (inanimate)	*naší dceru*	*naše dítě*
LOCATIVE	o *našem synovi*	*naší dceři*	*našem dítěti*
INSTRUMENTAL	*naším synem*	*naší dcerou*	*naším dítětem*
		Plural	
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*naši syni* (animate) *naše vozy* (inanimate)	*naše dcery*	*naše štěňata*
GENITIVE	*našich synů*	*našich dcer*	*našich štěňat*
DATIVE	*našim synům*	*našim dcerám*	*našim štěňatům*
ACCUSATIVE	*naše syny*	*naše dcery*	*naše štěňata*
LOCATIVE	o *našich synech*	*našich dcerách*	*našich štěňatech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*našimi syny*	*našimi dcerami*	*našimi štěňaty.*

The pronoun *jejich* is not declined.

Note on the Use of Czech Pronouns.

Czech generally does not use possessive pronouns if possession is obvious.

Mluvil jsem s matkou. (I talked to [my] mother.)
Myji si ruce. (I am washing [my] hands.)

3.5 Reflexive Pronouns

There are two types of reflexive pronouns, personal reflexive pronouns and possessive reflexive pronouns.

3.5.1 Personal Reflexive Pronouns

	Singular	
GENITIVE	*sebe*	(myself, himself, ourselves, etc., one case form applies to all persons, singular and plural.)
DATIVE	*si, sobě*	
ACCUSATIVE	*se, sebe*	
LOCATIVE	*o sobě*	
INSTRUMENTAL	*sebou*	

Personal reflexive pronouns indicate the subject acting upon itself. The reflexive pronouns are always in non-subject functions. Thus, there is no nominative case form.
Examples:

Máte s sebou mapu?	(Do you have the map with you?)
O sobě mluví mnoho.	(He talks about himself a lot.)
Máme před sebou velmi velký problém.	(We have before us a very big problem.)

3.5.2 Reflexive Pronoun - *svůj* -

	Singular		
	masculine	feminine	neuter
GENITIVE	*svého*	*své*	*svého*
DATIVE	*svému*	*své*	*svému*
ACCUSATIVE	*svůj, svého•*	*svou*	*své*
LOCATIVE	*o svém*	*své*	*svém*
INSTRUMENTAL	*svým*	*svou*	*svým*

•animate nouns

		Plural		
		masculine	feminine	neuter
GENITIVE		*svých*	*svých*	*svých*
DATIVE		*svým*	*svým*	*svým*
ACCUSATIVE		*své*	*své*	*svá*
LOCATIVE	*o*	*svých*	*svých*	*svých*
INSTRUMENTAL		*svými*	*svými*	*svými*

Possessive reflexive pronouns have the same function as regular possessive pronouns, indicating to whom persons or objects belong, but in addition, they specify that the person or object belongs to the subject.

Mluvil o svých dětech.	(He talked about his [own] children.)
Udělala to pro své dobro.	(She did it for her [own] benefit.)
Starej se o své věci!	(Take care of your [own] things.)

The function of the reflexive possessive pronoun is particularly important in the third person. Note the following sentence:

Mluvil s jeho dcerou.	(He talked to his daughter.)

The Czech sentence means that he talked to the daughter of someone else, not his own.

3.6 Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns introduce subordinate clauses. They indicate the relationship of the subordinate clause to some part of the main clause. There are four groups of relative pronouns:

1. *který*
2. *jenž*
3. *kdo, co*
4. *jehož*

Singular			
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*který*	*která*	*které*
GENITIVE	*kterého*	*které*	*kterého*
DATIVE	*kterému*	*které*	*kterému*
ACCUSATIVE	*který, kterého* •	*kterou*	*které*
LOCATIVE o	*kterém*	*které*	*kterém*
INSTRUMENTAL	*který*	*kterou*	*kterým*

• masculine animate

Plural			
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*které, kteří* •	*které*	*která*
GENITIVE	*kterých*	*kterých*	*kterých*
DATIVE	*kterým*	*kterým*	*kterým*
ACCUSATIVE	*které*	*které*	*která*
LOCATIVE o	*kterých*	*kterých*	*kterých*
INSTRUMENTAL	*kterými*	*kterými*	*kterými*

• masculine animate

The relative pronouns in this group are the same in form as the interrogative pronouns and are declined like hard adjectives.

Examples:

To je člověk, který mi pomohl. (This is the man who helped me.)

To je ta kniha, o které jste mluvil? (Is this the book which you mentioned?)

Není země, o které by něco nevěděl. (There is no country about which he doesn't know something.)

	Singular		
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*jenž*	*jež*	*jež*
GENITIVE	*jehož*	*jíž*	*jehož*
DATIVE	*jemuž*	*jíž*	*jemuž*
ACCUSATIVE	*jenž, jehož**	*jíž*	*jež*
LOCATIVE	o *němž*	*níž*	*němž*
INSTRUMENTAL	*jímž*	*jíž*	*jímž*

*masculine inanimate

	Plural	
	masculine feminine neuter (One form applies to all three genders)	
NOMINATIVE	*jíž* (masc. an.)	*jež*
GENITIVE		*jichž, jejichž*
DATIVE		*jimž*
ACCUSATIVE		*jež*
LOCATIVE		o *nichž*
INSTRUMENTAL		*jimiž*

The nominative forms of *jenž, jež* and *jíž, jež* in singular and plural are used only in the literary language. In the spoken language, the relative pronouns *který, která,* etc., take their place. When a preposition is used with these pronouns, *j* is replaced by *n-*, e .g.:

To je ta budova, před níž parkoval ten autobus.

(This is the building in front of which the bus parked.)

Examples:

Jak se jmenuje ten člověk, o kterém jste mluvil?	(What is the name of the man you mentioned?)
To je ta kniha, o které se tak mnoho mluví.	(This is the book about which there is is so much discussion)
Jak vypadá ten člověk, kterému jste dal ten balíček?	(The man to whom you gave the package, what does he look like?)

3. The relative pronouns ***kdo, co*** are declined like the interrogative pronouns *kdo, co*.

NOMINATIVE	*kdo*	*co*
GENITIVE	*koho*	*čeho*
DATIVE	*komu*	*čemu*
ACCUSATIVE	*koho*	*co*
LOCATIVE	*o kom*	*čem*
INSTRUMENTAL	*kým*	*čím*

Examples:

Psal každému, kdo byl na seznamu.	(He wrote everyone who was on the list.)
To je něco, o čem nic neví.	(This is something he knows nothing about.)

4. The possessive relative pronouns ***jehož***, ***jejíž***, and ***jejichž*** are not declined.

To je člověk, jehož auto jsme použili.	(That's the man whose car we used.)
Je to ta sekretářka, na jejímž psacím stroji jste psal?	(Is that the secretary whose typewriter you used?)
To jsou ti lide, jejichž zavazadla jsou pryč.	(Those are the people whose baggage is missing.)

72

Notes on the relative pronouns

1. Pronouns in groups 1 and 3 have variants which have the consonant ***ž*** added to all forms. These forms appear in literary or poetic language.

2. Use of the pronouns

   a. The pronouns in group 1 relate to nouns. *muž, který ...*
   žena, která ...
   město, které ...

   b. The pronouns in group 3 relate to other pronouns.
   někdo, kdo ...
   něco, co ...

   c. The pronouns in group 2 are generally used in the written language or in non-colloquial speech.

3.7 Negative Pronouns

1. There are three negative pronoun groups: 1. *nikdo, nic,* 2. *žádný* 3. *ničí.*

Singular and Plural		
NOMINATIVE	*nikdo*	*nic*
GENITIVE	*nikoho*	*ničeho*
DATIVE	*nikomu*	*ničemu*
ACCUSATIVE	*nikoho*	*nic*
LOCATIVE	*o nikom*	*ničem*
INSTRUMENTAL	*nikým*	*ničím*

The negative pronouns in this group are formed by adding the prefix ***ni-*** to the interrogative pronoun forms.

Examples:

Nikdo nepřišel.	(No one came.)
Nikomu nedůvěřuje.	(He doesn't trust anyone.)
Nic o tom nevěděl.	(He didn't know anything about it.)
Ničeho se nebojí.	(He's not afraid of anything.)

2.

	Singular		
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*žádný*	*žádná*	*žádné*
GENITIVE	*žádného*	*žádné*	*žádného*
DATIVE	*žádnému*	*žádné*	*žádnému*
ACCUSATIVE	*žádný, žádného**	*žádnou*	*žádné*
LOCATIVE	*o žádném*	*žádné*	*žádném*
INSTRUMENTAL	*žádným*	*žádnou*	*žádným*
	Plural		
NOMINATIVE	*žádné, žádní**	*žádné*	*žádná*
GENITIVE	*žádných*	*žádných*	*žádných*
DATIVE	*žádným*	*žádným*	*žádným*
ACCUSATIVE	*žádné*	*žádné*	*žádná*
LOCATIVE	*o žádných*	*žádných*	*žádných*
INSTRUMENTAL	*žádnými*	*žádnými*	*žádnými*

*masculine animate

Žádný student se nezúčastnil. (None of the students took part.)
To nemá žádný význam. (This doesn't have any significance whatsoever.)
Nemá rád žádné ryby. (He doesn't like any kind of fish.)

3. The negative pronoun ***nikí*** is not declined.

Čí je to kniha? (Whose book is this?)
Nikí. (No one's.)

Notice above that after every negative pronoun, the verb is also in the negative form. Czech grammar requires double negation.

3.8 Indefinite Pronouns

1. The most common indefinite groups are: 1. ***někdo, něco***, 2. ***některý, nějaký***, 3. ***něčí***.

Other variants of the indefinite pronouns can be formed from the interrogative pronouns adding the suffixes:

-si: ***kdosi*** (somebody), ***cosi*** (something), ***jakýsi*** (sort of)
-koli: ***kdokoli*** (anybody), ***cokoli*** (anything), ***jakýkoli*** (any)

or by adding the prefixes:

lec- : ***leckdo*** (someone, many a person), ***lecco*** (many a thing), ***lecjaký*** (various)
málo- : ***málokdo*** (hardly anyone), ***málokterý*** (hardly any)
kde- : ***kdekdo*** (everybody, all sorts of people), ***kdeco*** (anything), ***kdejaký*** (any)

In the declension of the above pronouns, the suffixes and prefixes remain constant while the pronouns change.

NOMINATIVE	*někdo*	*něco*
GENITIVE	*někoho*	*něčeho*
DATIVE	*někomu*	*něčemu*
ACCUSATIVE	*někoho*	*něco*
LOCATIVE	o *někom*	*něčem*
INSTRUMENTAL	*někým*	*něčím*

Examples:

Někdo tam čeká.	(There's someone waiting there.)
Dej to někomu, kdo o tom něco ví.	(Give this to someone who knows something about it.)
Něco se pálí.	(There's something burning.)
Uřízni to něčím ostrým.	(Cut it with something sharp.)

2.

	Singular		
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*některý, nějaký*	*některá, nějaká*	*některé, nějaké*
GENITIVE	*některého, nějakého*	*některé, nějaké*	*některého, nějakého*
DATIVE	*některému, nějakému*	*některé, nějaké*	*některému, nějakému*
ACCUSATIVE	*některý, nějaký* *některého, nějakého**	*některou, nějakou*	*některé, nějaké*
LOCATIVE o	*některém, nějakém*	*některé, nějaké*	*některém, nějakém*
INSTRUMENTAL	*některým, nějakým*	*některou, nějakou*	*některým, nějakým*

*masculine animate

	Plural		
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*některé, nějaké* *někteří*, nějací*	*některé, nějaké*	*některá, nějaká*
GENITIVE	*některých, nějakých*	*některých, nějakých*	*některých, nějakých*
DATIVE	*některým, nějakým*	*některým, nějakým*	*některým, nějakým*
ACCUSATIVE	*některé, nějaké*	*některé, nějaké*	*některá, nějaká*
LOCATIVE o	*některých, nějakých*	*některých, nějakých*	*některých, nějakých*
INSTRUMENTAL	*některými, nějakými*	*některými, nějakými*	*některými, nějakými*

*masculine animate

The pronoun ***nějaký*** denotes something very indefinite which in English may mean "a" or "some kind of". The pronoun ***některý*** means "some" of a particular group.

V Americe má nějakého přítele.	(He has a friend in America.)
Někteří vojáci nechtěli bojovat.	(Some soldiers didn't want to fight.)
Viděl jsem tam nějaké cizince.	(I saw some foreigners there.)
Někteří lidé s ním souhlasí.	(Some people agree with him.)
Stavějí tam nějaké budovy.	(They are building some kind of buildings there.)

3. The indefinite pronoun něčí is not declined.

Na židli byl něčí kabát.	(Someone's coat was on the chair.)

NOTE: It is important not to confuse negative pronouns with indefinite pronouns:

nikdo (nobody)	-	*někdo* (somebody)
nijaký (no)	-	*nějaký* (some)
nic (nothing)	-	*něco* (something)

3.9 The Pronouns *všechen* and *každý*

		Singular		
		masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE		*všechen*	*všechna*	*všechno*
GENITIVE		*všeho*	*vší*	*všeho*
DATIVE		*všemu*	*vší*	*všemu*
ACCUSATIVE		*všechen*	*všechnu*	*všechno*
LOCATIVE	o	*všem*	*vší*	*všem*
INSTRUMENTAL		*vším*	*vší*	*vším*
		Plural		
NOMINATIVE		*všechny* *všichni**	*všechny*	*všechna*
GENITIVE		*všech*	*všech*	*všech*
DATIVE		*všem*	*všem*	*všem*
ACCUSATIVE		*všechny*	*všechny*	*všechna*
LOCATIVE	o	*všech*	*všech*	*všech*
INSTRUMENTAL		*všemi*	*všemi*	*všemi*
		*animate		

The plural form *všichni* is used with masculine animate nouns, *všechny* with masculine inanimate and feminine nouns and všechna is used with neuter nouns.

In the accusative case plural *všechny* is used with all masculine and feminine nouns; *všechna* is used with neuter nouns.

The singular forms are used with collective nouns; e. g. , *všechna voda* (all [the] water) *všechno mléko* (all [the] milk), *všechen lid* (all [the] people).

Examples:

Všichni vojáci dostali příděly. (All soldiers were given rations.)

Oznámil to všem zaměstnancům. (He announced it to all employees.)

		Singular	
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*každý*	*každá*	*každé*
GENITIVE	*každého*	*každé*	*každého*
DATIVE	*každému*	*každé*	*každému*
ACCUSATIVE	*každý, každého**	*každou*	*každé*
LOCATIVE	o *každém*	*každé*	*každém*
INSTRUMENTAL	*každým*	*každou*	*každým*

*masculine animate

The pronoun *každý* means either "every" or "each" and it can be used only in the singular.

Každý dělník zná svůj úkol. (Every worker knows his assignment.)
Dal každému dítěti malý dárek. (He gave each child a small gift.)
Rozuměla si s každým. (She got along with everyone.)

4. ADJECTIVES

4.1 General Characteristics

Adjectives either function in units with nouns, or they function in predicate constructions after the verb "to be."

Mám nové auto. (I have a new car.)
To auto je nové. (This car is new.)

When functioning in units, the adjective --with few exceptions-- precedes the noun it modifies. Adjectives agree in gender, number, and case with the nouns they modifiy.

4.2 Basic Adjectival Declensions

The Czech adjectives are divided into two groups depending on the stem of a particular adjective. Those which end in a hard consonant (see Consonants 1.6.1) are followed in the nominative singular masculine form by the ending ***-ý,*** e.g., *dobrý* (good) and they will be referred to as hard adjectives. Those ending in a soft consonant will be followed in the nominative singular of all genders (masculine, feminine and neuter) by ***-í*** and they will be referred to as soft adjectives, e. g. *dívčí* (girllike), *jarní* (springlike), *svěží* (fresh). Some of those adjectives which end in a neutral consonant may be followed by ***-ý*** and others by ***-í***: hence, some will be hard and some soft, e.g., *slabý* (weak), *veselý* (merry), *přímý* (straight) but *cizí* (foreign), *hovězí* (beef), *ryzí* (genuine). To this category belong predominantly adjectives derived from animals, e.g., *psí* (doglike), *rybí* (fishlike), *lví* (lionlike), but *kravský* (cowlike), *koňský* (horselike), *volský* (oxlike), etc.

4.2.1 Hard declension

	Singular		
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*nový dům*	*nová kniha*	*nové kino*
GENITIVE	*nového domu*	*nové knihy*	*nového kina*
DATIVE	*novému domu*	*nové knize*	*novému kinu*
ACCUSATIVE	*nový dům* *nového učitele•*	*novou knihu*	*nové kino*
VOCATIVE	*nový učiteli*	*nová kniho*	*nové kino*
LOCATIVE o	*novém domu*	*nové knize*	*novém kinu*
INSTRUMENTAL	*novým domem*	*novou knihou*	*novým kinem*

• with animate nouns

		Plural		
NOMINATIVE		*nové domy,* *noví učitelé•*	*nové knihy*	*nová kina*
GENITIVE		*nových domů*	*nových knih*	*nových kin*
DATIVE		*novým domům*	*novým knihám*	*novým kinům*
ACCUSATIVE		*nové domy*	*nové knihy*	*nová kina*
VOCATIVE		*nové domy* *noví učitelé•*	*nové knihy*	*nová kina*
LOCATIVE	o	*nových domech*	*nových knihách*	*nových kinech*
INSTRUMENTAL		*novými domy*	*novými knihami*	*novými kiny*
	•	with animate nouns		

Notes on the Hard Declension

1. Animate masculine adjectives in the singular have a genitive form ending in the accusative. This corresponds to the way animate masculine nouns function.

To je starý pes. (This is an old dog.)
Mám starého psa. (I have an old dog.)

2. The nominative (and vocative) plural of adjectives agreeing with animate nouns is ***-í.*** This vowel has a softening effect on the preceding consonants.

a. The consonants ***d, t, n***

d ⇒ ***d'*** *chudý člověk* (a poor man) - *chudí lidé* (poor people)
t ⇒ ***t'*** *bohatý člověk* (a rich man) - *bohatí lidé* (rich people)
n ⇒ ***ň*** *černý kůň* (a black horse) - *černi koně* (black horses)

b. The hard consonants ***h, ch, k, r***

h ⇒ ***z*** *drahý kůň* (an expensive horse) - *drazí koně* (expensive horses)
ch ⇒ ***š*** *hluchý muž* (a deaf man) - *hluší muži* (deaf men)
k ⇒ ***c*** *vysoký muž* (a tall man) - *vysocí muži* (tall men)
r ⇒ ***ř*** *starý člověk* (an old man) - *staří lidé* (old people)

c. The suffixes **-cký** or **-ský**

-cký	⇒ *-čtí*	*americký voják*	(an American soldier)
		američtí vojáci	(American soldiers)
-ský	⇒ *-ští*	*ruský důstojník*	(a Russian officer)
		ruští důstojníci	(Russian officers)

4.2.2 Soft Declension

		Singular		
		masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE		*letní kabát*	*letní škola*	*letní kino*
GENITIVE		*letního kabátu*	*letní školy*	*letního kina*
DATIVE		*letnímu kabátu*	*letní škole*	*letnímu kinu*
ACCUSATIVE		*letní kabát*	*letní školu*	*letní kino*
		staršího bratra		
VOCATIVE		*letní kabáte*	*letní školo*	*letní kino*
LOCATIVE	o	*letním kabátu*	*letní škole*	*letním kinu*
INSTRUMENTAL		*letním kabátem*	*letní školou*	*letním kinem*
		Plural		
NOMINATIVE		*letní kabáty*	*letní školy*	*letní kina*
GENITIVE		*letních kabátů*	*letních škol*	*letních kin*
DATIVE		*letním kabátům*	*letním školám*	*letním kinům*
ACCUSATIVE		*letní kabáty*	*letní školy*	*letní kina*
VOCATIVE		*letní kabáty*	*letní školy*	*letní kina*
LOCATIVEE	o	*letních kabátech*	*letních školách*	*letních kinech*
INSTRUMENTAL		*letními kabáty*	*letními školami*	*letními kiny*

Notice that the vowel in the ending is always long.

4.3 Short Forms of Adjectives

Some adjectives, if used in a construction with the verb "to be", have short form variants:

On je hotov. (He is ready.) (Usual form - *hotový* (ready) - short form *hotov*)

These adjectives mostly denote states of body or mind. There are very few of these and they are little used outside of the literary language.

Examples:

Usual form		Short form
laskavý (kind)	-	*laskav*
mrtvý (dead)	-	*mrtev*
nemocný (sick)	-	*nemocen*
spokojený (satisfied, at ease)	-	*spokojen*
zdravý (healthy)	-	*zdráv*

The short form adjectives appear only in the nominative case and have the following endings:

Singular		
masculine	*zdráv*	*sám*
feminine	*zdráva*	*sama*
neuter	*zdrávo*	*samo*
Plural		
masculine animate	*zdrávi*	*sami*
masculine inanimate	*zdrávy*	*samy*
feminine	*zdrávy*	*samy*
neuter	*zdráva*	*sama*

Note loss of length in *sám*.

4.4 Use of the Short Adjectival Form *rád*

The short adjectival form ***rád*** is used in various constructions to express "liking," or in the negative form, "dislike." Notice how the negative constructions are formed. Notice also that *rád* has agreement in gender and number.

1. Constructions with the verb ***mít***

Mám rád New York.
(I like New York.)
Ona má ráda toho chlapce.
(She likes that boy.)
Všichni Češi mají rádi plzeňské pivo.
(All Czechs love Pilsner beer.)

Nemám rád New York.
(I don't like New York.)
Ona nemá ráda toho chlapce.
(She doesn't like that boy.)

The previous constructions express fairly strong feelings, which can be translated into English either as "like" or "love, "depending on the context. The idea of the English term "love" as in "He loves his wife" is expressed by the verb *milovat (On miluje svou ženu)*.

The construction *mít rád* cannot be used in all contexts to express liking; visual attraction is expressed through the term *líbit se*:

Ten chlapec se jí líbí. (She likes that boy.) This means that she likes his appearance.

Liking of food is expressed by the verb *chutnat* (to like the taste of something).
Jak vám chutná polévka? (How do you like the soup [when eating it]?)
Ta polévka mi chutná. (I like the soup.)

Morover it is possible to say: *Mám rád polévku.* (I like soup.) which means, I like soup in general.

2. The *rád* form modifying verbs

Rád čtu romány.
(I like to read novels.)
Rádi cestujeme do zahraničí.
(We like to go abroad.)

Nečtu rád romány. [or] *Čtu nerad romány.*
(I don't like to read novels.)
Necestujeme rádi do zahraničí.
or
Cestujeme neradi do zahraničí.
(We don't like to go abroad.)

In all cases above, the term *rád* has the meaning "to like." Note that the negative form loses the length - *nerad*.

3. Constructions with "to be"

Jsem rád, že se to stalo.
(I'm glad that it happened.)
Ona bude ráda, když přijdete.
(She'll be glad if you come.)

Nejsem rád, že se to stalo.
(I am not glad it happened.)
Ona nebude ráda, když přijdete.
(She won't be glad if you come.)

4.5 Adjectival Form Nouns

A number of nouns are adjectival in form. They are declined like adjectives.

hajný (forrester) - masculine
vrátný (doorman) - masculine
vrchní (waiter) - masculine
průvodčí (train conductor) - masculine or feminine
cestující (passenger) - masculine or feminine
dovolená (vacation) - feminine
zpropitné (tip) - neuter

Soft nouns such as *cestující* are declined either as masculine or feminine depending on whether the person is a man or a woman. The noun *vrchní* always has a masculine declension.

4.6 Adjectival Surnames

Some male surnames are adjectival in form: *pan Malý, pan Veselý, pan Komenský*. These are declined like masculine adjectives. The female counterparts of the adjective derived surnames are declined like feminine adjectives, *paní Malá, paní Veselá, paní Komenská*. All other female surnames add the ***-ová*** suffix and are declined like regular hard adjectives.

pan Novák - *paní Nováková*
pan Šmit - *paní Šmitová*

4.7 Degrees of Adjectives

Adjectives expressing qualities have comparative and superlative degree forms. All comparative and superlative degree forms are declined like the soft adjectives.

4.7.1 Formation of the Comparative Degree

The comparative degree is formed by the addition of the suffixes ***-ejší, -ější, -ší*** or ***-čí*** to the stem of the adjective.

chudý (poor) - *chudší* (poorer)
krásný (beautiful) - *krásnější* (more beautiful)
veselý (gay, merry) - *veselejší* (gayer, merrier)

The choice of ***-ejší, -ější, -ší*** or ***-čí*** depends on the final stem consonant.

-ejší - Stems ending in ***l, s, z***

milý (nice)	-	*milejší* (nicer)
rusý (fair haired)	-	*rusejší* (more fair haired)
drzý (arrogant)	-	*drzejší* (more arrogant)

-ější - Stem ending in ***b, p, m, n, t, v***

hrubý (rough)	-	*hrubější* (rougher)
tupý (dull)	-	*tupější* (duller)
pitomý (stupid)	-	*pitomější* (more stupid)
pěkný (pretty)	-	*pěknější* (prettier)
hlasitý (loud)	-	*hlasitější* (louder)
nový (new)	-	*novější* (newer)

- Most of the soft adjectives

moderní (modern)	-	*modernější* (more modern)
raní (early)	-	*rannější* (earlier)
robustní (robust)	-	*robustnější* (more robust)

-ší - ***r, d***

starý (old)	-	*starší* (older)
mladý (young)	-	*mladší* (younger)

-či - Some adjectives ending in ***-ký***

hezký (pretty)	-	*hezčí* (prettier)
tenký (thin)	-	*tenčí* (thinner)
měkký (soft)	-	*měkčí* (softer)
lehký (light)	-	*lehčí* (lighter)
vlhký (damp)	-	*vlhčí* (damper)

4.7.2 Irregular Comparative Degree Forms

Some adjectives undergo changes in the stem when adding the comparative degree suffix:

široký (wide)	-	*širší* (wider)
hluboký (deep)	-	*hlubší* (deeper)
vysoký (high)	-	*vyšší* (higher)
blízký (close)	-	*bližší* (closer)
krátký (short)	-	*kratší* (shorter)
nízký (low)	-	*nižší* (lower)
těžký (heavy)	-	*těžší* (heavier)
úzký (narrow)	-	*užší* (narrower)
tichý (quiet, silent)	-	*tišší* (quieter)
drahý (expensive)	-	*dražší* (more expensive)
dlouhý (long)	-	*delší* (longer)

Note that the vowel in the stem is sometimes shortened:

krátký	-	*kratší*
úzký	-	*užší*
nízký	-	*nižší*

Adjectives which have the suffix ***-cký*** or ***- ský*** form the comparative degree by adding ***-čtější, -štější***:

praktický (practical)	-	*praktičtější* (more practical)
realistický (realistic)	-	*realističtější* (more realistic)
rasistický (racist)	-	*rasističtější* (more racist)
hrdinský (heroic)	-	*hrdinštější* (more heroic)
přátelský (friendly)	-	*přátelštější* (friendlier)

Sometimes a different form is used for the comparative degree:

dobrý (good)	-	*lepší* (better)
špatný (bad)	-	*horší* (worse)
zlý (evil)	-	*horší* (worse)
velký (big, great)	-	*větší* (bigger, greater)

4.7.3 Superlative Degree Forms

Superlative is formed by adding the prefix ***nej-*** to comparative degree forms.

lepší (better)	-	*nejlepší* (best)
rychlejší (faster)	-	*nejrychlejší* (fastest)
větší (bigger)	-	*největší* (biggest)

Adjectives, whose stems end in the cluster - ***t r***- or - ***dr***- , change the - ***r***- to - ***ř***- .

ostrý (sharp)	-	*ostřejší* (sharper)
chytrý (clever)	-	*chytřejší* (more clever)
moudrý (wise)	-	*moudřejší* (wiser)

4.7.4 Constructions Using Degrees of Comparison

tak - jako

On je tak starý jako ty.	(He is as old as you are.)
Můj vůz není tak drahý jako váš.	(My car is not as expensive as yours.)

než

On je mlaší než ty.	(He is younger than you are.)
Tato cesta je rychlejší než tamta.	(This route is faster than that one.)

Preposition ***o*** and accusative case

On je o tři roky starší než ty.	(He is three years older than you.)
Tento stůl je o deset centimetrů delší.	(This table is ten centimeters longer.)

mnohem

Cesta autem je mnohem rychlejší než autobusem.	(The trip by car is much faster than by bus.)
Schůze byla mnohem delší než jsme plánovali.	(The meeting was much longer than we planned.)

čím - tím

Čím větší motor, tím větší spotřeba.	(The bigger the engine, the higher the consumption.)
Čím lepší kvalita, tím vyšší cena.	(The better the quality, the higher the price.)

sebe plus comparative

I kdyby byl sebechytřejší, tak tomu rozumět nebude.	(No matter how clever he might be, he still won't understand it.)
Může být seberychlejší, ale včas tam nebude.	(No matter how fast he is, he still won't be there on time.)

The preposition ***z (ze)***

On je největší ze všech.	(He is the tallest of all.)
Ona je ze všech nejmladší.	(She is the youngest of all.)

jaký - kdy

To je nejkrásnější obraz, jaký jsem kdy viděl.	(This is the most beautiful picture I have ever seen.)

4.8 Possessive Adjectives

A special kind of possessive adjective form can be derived from names or from nouns denoting persons. There are two systems of possessive adjectives: one derived from male names and nouns denoting males and another system derived from female names and nouns denoting females. Each system has agreement with masculine, feminine, and neuter nouns.

bratrův přítel	-	(brother's friend)
Helenino auto	-	(Helen's car)
sestřina kniha	-	(sister's book)
Karlův most	-	(Charles Bridge)

4.8.1 Male Possessive Adjectives

All male names and nouns may have this system of endings: *bratr, syn, otec, prezident ředitel, Novák*, (a surname), except nouns which are adjectival in form.

		Singular		
		masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE		*Karlův přítel*	*Karlova kniha*	*Karlovo pero*
GENITIVE		*Karlova přítele*	*Karlovy knihy*	*Karlova pera*
DATIVE		*Karlovu příteli*	*Karlově knize*	*Karlovu peru*
ACCUSATIVE		*Karlova přítele•* *Karlův vůz••*	*Karlovu knihu*	*Karlovo pero*
LOCATIVE	o	*Karlovu příteli* *Karlově•*	*Karlově knize*	*Karlovu peru* *Karlově•*
INSTRUMENTAL		*Karlovým přítelem*	*Karlovou knihou*	*Karlovým perem*
		Plural		
		masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE		*Karlovi přátelé•* *Karlovy vozy••*	*Karlovy knihy*	*Karlova pera*
GENITIVE		*Karlových přátel* *Karlových vozů*	*Karlových knih*	*Karlových per*
DATIVE		*Karlovým přátelům* *Karlovým vozům*	*Karlovým knihám*	*Karlovým perům*
ACCUSATIVE		*Karlovy přátelé* *Karlovy vozy*	*Karlovy knihy*	*Karlova pera*
LOCATIVE	o	*Karlových přátelích* *Karlových vozech*	*Karlových knihách*	*Karlových perech*
INSTRUMENTAL		*Karlovými přáteli* *Karlovými vozy*	*Karlovými knihami*	*Karlovými pery*

• animate nouns •• inanimate nouns

• both endings are possible

89

Notes on the Male Possessive Adjectives

1. Male nouns endings in **-e** and **-a**, drop these endings to form possessive adjectives.

soudce (judge) - *soudcův* (judge's)
předseda (chairman) - *předsedův* (chairman's)

4.8.2 Female Possessive Adjectives

1. The feminine endings **-a**, **-e**, and **-ě** are droppped in the formation of the possessive adjectival forms.

sestra (sister)	-	*sestřin* (sister's)
žena (woman)	-	*ženin* (wife's)
přítelkyně (girlfriend)	-	*přítelkynin* (girlfriend's)

2. The vowel ***i*** in the suffixes ***-in***, ***-ina***, ***-ino*** changes the quality of the final stem consonants in the following way:

d	⇒	***d'***	*Anda* (nickname for Ann)	-	*Andin* (Ann's)
t	⇒	***t'***	*teta* (Aunt)	-	*tetin* (aunt's)
n	⇒	***ň***	*Anna* (Ann)	-	*Annin* (Ann's)
h	⇒	***ž***	(rare occurrence)		
ch	⇒	***š***	*snacha* (daughter-in-law)	-	*snašin* (daughter-in law's)
k	⇒	***č***	*matka* (mother)	-	*matčin* (mother's)
r	⇒	***ř***	*setra* (sister)	-	*sestřin* (sister's)

5. NUMERALS

Numerals in Czech can be divided into five groups:

1. Cardinal numerals - *jeden* (one), *dva* (two), *tři* (three).
2. Ordinal numerals - *první* (first), *druhý* (second), *třetí* (third).
3. Dual numerals - *dvoje* (two [pairs]), *troje* (three [pairs]), *patery* (five [pairs]).
4. Multiple numerals - *dvojitý* (double), *trojitý* (triple), *čtyřnásobný* (quadruple).
5. Indefinite quantifiers - *málo* (little), *mnoho* (a lot), *několik* (several).

5.1 Cardinal Numerals

1	*jeden, jedna, jedno*	*16*	*šestnáct*	*100*	*sto*
2	*dva, dvě, dvě*	*17*	*sedmnáct*	*101*	*sto jedna*
3	*tři*	*18*	*osmnáct*	*102*	*sto dvě*
4	*čtyři*	*19*	*devatenáct*	*103*	*sto tři*
5	*pět*	*20*	*dvacet*	*200*	*dvě stě*
6	*šest*	*21*	*dvacet jedna*	*300*	*tři sta*
7	*sedm*	*22*	*dvacet dva*	*400*	*čtyři sta*
8	*osm*	*23*	*dvacet tři*	*500*	*pět set*
9	*devět*	*30*	*třicet*	*600*	*šest set*
10	*deset*	*40*	*čtyřicet*	*700*	*sedm set*
11	*jedenáct*	*50*	*padesát*	*800*	*osm set*
12	*dvanáct*	*60*	*šedesát*	*900*	*devět set*
13	*třináct*	*70*	*sedmdesát*	*1,000*	*tisíc*
14	*čtrnáct*	*80*	*osmdesát*	*1, 000 000*	*milión*
15	*patnáct*	*90*	*devadesát*	*1, 000, 000 000*	*miliarda*

5.1.1 Declension of Cardinals Numerals

When quantifying nouns, the numeral 1 (one) requires agreement in gender and case, the numeral 2 (two) has partial gender agreement, and all numerals 3 (three) and above require agreement in case only.

Numeral 1

The numeral 1 is declined like the demonstrative pronouns *ten, ta, to*.

	Singular		
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*jeden*	*jedna*	*jedno*
GENITIVE	*jednoho*	*jedné*	*jednoho*
DATIVE	*jednomu*	*jedné*	*jednomu*
ACCUSATIVE	*jeden, jednoho**	*jednu*	*jedno*
LOCATIVE	*o jednom*	*jedné*	*jednom*
INSTRUMENTAL	*jedním*	*jednou*	*jedním*
	Plural		
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*jedny, jedni**	*jedny*	*jedna*
GENITIVE	*jedněch*	*jedněch*	*jedněch*
DATIVE	*jedněm*	*jedněm*	*jedněm*
ACCUSATIVE	*jedny*	*jedny*	*jedna*
LOCATIVE	*o jedněch*	*jedněch*	*jedněch*
INSTRUMENTAL	*jedněmi*	*jedněmi*	*jedněmi*

* animate nouns

Plural forms agree with nouns that are plural in form, e. g., *dveře* (door).

Numerals 2-4

These numerals have their own declension:

NOMINATIVE	*dva muži*	*dvě ženy*	*dvě auta*
GENITIVE	*dvou mužů*	*dvou žen*	*dvou aut*
DATIVE	*dvěma mužům*	*dvěma ženám*	*dvěma autům*
ACCUSATIVE	*dva muže*	*dvě ženy*	*dvě auta*
LOCATIVE	o *dvou mužích*	*dvou ženách*	*dvou autech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*dvěma muži*	*dvěma ženami*	*dvěma auty*

NOMINATIVE	*tři muži*	*čtyři muži*
GENITIVE	*tří mužů*	*čtyř mužů*
DATIVE	*třem mužům*	*čtyřem mužům*
ACCUSATIVE	*tři muže*	*čtyři muže*
LOCATIVE	o *třech mužích*	*čtyřech mužích*
INSTRUMENTAL	*třemi muži*	*čtyřmi muži*

oba, obě (both) is declined like *dva, dvě*.

Numerals 5 and above

These numerals take an *-i* ending in all other cases except nominative and accusative.

NOMINATIVE	*pět*	*žen*
GENITIVE	*pěti*	*žen*
DATIVE	*pěti*	*ženám*
ACCUSATIVE	*pět*	*žen*
LOCATIVE	o *pěti*	*ženách*
INSTRUMENTAL	*pěti*	*ženami*

The numeral 9 (*devět*) changes the stem vowel *-e-* into *-i-* in its declension.

Mluvili jsme o devíti případech. (We talked about nine cases.)
Přijela do Prahy před devíti měsíci. (She came to Prague nine months ago.)

The Numeral 100

The numeral 100 is declined like the neuter noun *město*.

	Singular	Plural
NOMINATIVE	*sto*	*sta*
GENITIVE	*sta*	*set*
DATIVE	*stu*	*stům*
ACCUSATIVE	*sto*	*sta*
LOCATIVE	*o stu*	*stech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*stem*	*sty*

NOTE: *Dvě stě* (two hundred)

U sta výrobků byla nalezena závada. (One hundred [manufactured] items were found defective.)

Prémie byly dány stu zaměstnancům. (One hundred employees received bonuses.)

The Numeral 1, 000 (thousand)

The Numeral 1, 000 is declined like the soft masculine noun *stroj*.

	Singular	Plural
NOMINATIVE	*tisíc*	*tisíce*
GENITIVE	*tisíce*	*tisíc**
DATIVE	*tisíci*	*tisícům*
ACCUSATIVE	*tisíc*	*tisíce*
LOCATIVE	*o tisíci*	*tisících*
INSTRUMENTAL	*tisícem*	*tisíci*

* After the number five and above one would expect the genitive plural form to be *tisíců*, however the ending is dropped.

Thousands

jeden tisíc	(one thousand)
dva tisíce	(two thousand)
tři tisíce	(three thousand)
čtyři tisíce	(four thousand)
pět tisíc	(five thousand)

Na oslavy přijelo asi dva tisíce lidí. (About two thousand people arrived for the celebration.)

Mluvili jsme o několika tisících korunách. (We talked about several thousand crowns.)

Novináři mluvili s tisíci lidmi. (Newsmen talked to thousands of people.)

The Numeral 1, 000, 000 (million)

The numeral million is declined like the hard, inanimate, masculine noun *hrad*.

	Singular	Plural
NOMINATIVE	*milión*	*miliony*
GENITIVE	*miliónu*	*miliónů*
DATIVE	*miliónu*	*miliónům*
ACCUSATIVE	*milión*	*miliony*
LOCATIVE	*o miliónu*	*miliónech*
INSTRUMENTAL	*miliónem*	*miliony*

Miliony korun byly vydány na ten projekt. (Millions of crowns were spent on the project.)

Během druhé světové války zemřelo mnoho miliónů lidí. (During WW II many millions of people died.)

The Numeral Billion

The numeral billion (*miliarda*) is declined like the hard feminine noun *žena*.

	Singular	Plural
NOMINATIVE	*miliarda*	*miliard*
GENITIVE	*miliardy*	*miliard*
DATIVE	*miliardě*	*miliardám*
ACCUSATIVE	*miliardu*	*miliardy*
LOCATIVE o	*miliardě*	*miliardách*
INSTRUMENTAL	*miliardou*	*miliardami*

Celostátní produkce se zvýšila o několik miliard korun. (National production increased by several billion crowns.)

Notes on the Declension of Cardinal Numerals

1. Numeral containing three or more digits in spoken or colloquial Czech decline only the last two digits, e.g.:

Tam byli návštěvníci ze sto dvaceti pěti různých zemí. (There were visitors from hundred twenty-five different countries there.)

Vzorky jsme poslali dvě stě čtyřiceti sedmi společnostem. (We have sent the samples to forty-seven companies.)

2. The spoken language may use inverted numerals forms in order to avoid declension of both parts of a compound cardinal number, e. g. *jedenadvacet* (21), *pětatřicet* (35), *osmačtyřicet* (48).

Pracovali jsme s pětatřiceti zaměstnanci. (We were working with thirty-five employees.)

Mluvil s osmadvaceti poslanci. (He talked to twenty-eight representatives.)

3. Compound cardinal numerals with the numeral 1 will usually use the feminine form in the nominative case.

dvacet jedna aut	(twenty-one cars)
dvacet jedna škol	(twenty-one schools)
dvacet jedna studentů	(twenty-one students)

When the cardinal numeral is declined, the inverted form *jedenadvacet* is preferred.

5.1.2 Cardinal Numbers and Noun Case Agreement.

a. Numeral one (see **5.1.1**)
All nouns in singular.
Agreement in gender and case.

b. Numeral two (see 5.1.1)
All nouns in plural.
Gender agreement in nominative and accusative case.
All other cases agree in case only.

c. Numerals three and four (see 5.1.1)
All nouns in plural.
Agreement in case.

d. Numerals five and above
Note case agreement.

NOMINATIVE	*Zde je pět studentů.* (There are five students here.)
ACCUSATIVE	*Vidím pět studentů.* (I see five students.)
GENITIVE	*Byl jsem tam ohledně těch pěti studentů.* (I was there concerning those five students.)
DATIVE	*Nic neměl proti těm pěti studentům.* (He didn't have anything against those five students.)
LOCATIVE	*Mluvili jsme o těch pěti studentech.* (We talked about those five students.)
INSTRUMENTAL	*Pracoval jsem s těmi pěti studenty.* (I worked with those five students.)

The counted objects after the numerals *sto*, *tisíc* and *milión*, may follow the pattern of indefinite quantifiers represented by a noun, e.g., *spousta*. With exception of the locative case, they will stay in the genitive case no matter into what case the number is put, e.g.

Je tam sto lidí. - There are one hundred people there.
Nemám nic proti stu lidí. - I have nothing against one hundred people.
Mluvil se stem lidí. - He spoke with one hundred people.

BUT
Byla tam skupina o stu lidech. - There was a group consistng of one hundred people.

Compound numerals (having more then one digit) ending in 2, 3 and 4 (54, 122, 5433) will not put the counted object in the genitive plural even though as a total they are way over five. Hence - *122 stoly* -122 tables, but *125 stolů* - 125 tables. However, this rule is restricted to literary Czech only. In spoken or colloquial versions, the genitive plural rule after the numeral 5 and above is strictly upheld.

5.1.3 Cardinal Numbers and Past Tense Agreement

The past tense must agree with the cardinal numbers. With the numbers *jeden, jedna, jedno,* the noun is in the singular and modified by the appropriate gender.

Tam byl jeden voják. (There was one soldier there.)
Tam byla jedna žena. (There was one woman there.)
Tam bylo jedno dítě. (There was one child there.)

With *dva, dvě, tři, čtyři,* the past tense is in plural and also modified by the appropriate gender.

Tam byli dva vojáci. (There were two soldiers there.)
Tam byly dvě ženy. (There were two women there.)
Tam byla tři auta. (There were three cars there.)
Tam byli čtyři učitelé. (There were four teachers there.)

With the cardinal numeral five and above, the neuter singular form is used.

Tam bylo pět studentů. (There were five students there.)
Tam bylo dvanáct žen. (There were twelve women there.)
Tam bylo padesát šest dětí. (There were fifty-six children there.)

5.2 Numerals Used as Nouns

Pětka jezdí na Václavské náměstí.	(The number "5" goes to Wenceslas Square.)
Syn dostal pětku z dějepisu.	(My son got a "5" ["F"] in history.)
V restauraci mají jen plzeňskou dvanáctku.	(The restaurant has only "12" [degree] Pilsner.)

Noun Forms of Numerals

jednička	*jedenáctka*	*jedenadvacítka*
dvojka	*dvanáctka*	*dvaadvacítka*
trojka	*třináctka*	*třiadvacítka* etc.
čtyřka	*čtrnáctka*	*třicítka*
pětka	*patnáctka*	*čtyřicítka*
šestka	*šestnáctka*	*padesátka*
sedmička	*sedmnáctka*	*šedesátka*
osmička	*osmnáctka*	*sedmdesátka*
devítka	*devatenáctka*	*osmdesátka*
desítka	*dvacítka*	*devadesátka*
		stovka
		tisícovka

5.3 Ordinal Numerals

Ordinal numerals express numerical sequence. They answer the question *kolikátý?* (which one?):

první	first	*sedmnáctý*	seventeenth
druhý	second	*osmnáctý*	eighteenth
třetí	third	*devatenáctý*	nineteenth
čtvrtý	fourth	*dvacátý*	twentieth
pátý	fifth	*dvacátý první*	twenty-first
šestý	sixth	*dvacátý druhý*	twenty-second
sedmý	seventh	*dvacátý třetí*	twenty-third
osmý	eighth	*třicátý*	thirtieth

devátý		ninth	*čtyřicátý*	fortieth
desátý		tenth	*padesátý*	fiftieth
jedenáctý		eleventh	*šedesátý*	sixtieth
dvanáctý		twelfth	*sedmdesátý*	seventieth
třináctý		thirteenth	*osmdesátý*	eightieth
čtrnáctý		fourteenth	*devadesátý*	ninetieth
patnáctý		fifteenth	*devadesátý první*	ninety first
šestnáctý		sixteenth	*devadesátý druhý*	ninety second
		stý	hundredth	
	sto	*(stý) první*	hundred first	
	sto	*(stý) druhý*	hundred second	
	sto	*desátý*	hundred tenth	
		stojedenáctý	hundred eleventh	
		dvoustý	two hundredth	
		but		
		dvě stě první	two hundred first	
		dvě stě druhý	two hundred second	
		třístý	three hundredth	
		but		
		tři sta první	three hundred first	
		čtyřstý	four hundredth	
		pětistý	five hundredth	
		šestistý	six hundredth	
		sedmistý	seven hundredth	
		osmistý	eight hundredth	
		devítistý	nine hundredth	
		tisící	thousandth	
		miliónty	millionth	

5.3.1 Declension of Ordinal Numerals

The ordinal numerals function as adjectives and are declined like adjectives. The numerals *první* (first), *třetí* (third), are declined like the soft adjectives and the rest are declined like the hard adjectives.

When the ordinal numeral is expressed by a digit, it is always followed by a period, e.g., *3. ledna* - 3rd of January.

100

SOFT - SINGULAR				
		masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE		*první*	*první*	*první*
GENITIVE		*prvního*	*první*	*prvního*
DATIVE		*prvnímu*	*první*	*prvnímu*
ACCUSATIVE		*první, prvního•*	*první*	*první*
LOCATIVE	o	*prvním*	*první*	*prvním*
INSTRUMENTAL		*prvním*	*první*	*prvním*
		SOFT - PLURAL		
NOMINATIVE		*první*	*první*	*první*
GENITIVE		*prvních*	*prvních*	*prvních*
DATIVE		*prvním*	*prvním*	*prvním*
ACCUSATIVE		*první*	*první*	*první*
LOCATIVE	o	*prvních*	*prvních*	*prvních*
INSTRUMENTAL		*prvními*	*prvními*	*prvními*

HARD - SINGULAR				
NOMINATIVE		*pátý*	*pátá*	*páté*
GENITIVE		*pátého*	*páté*	*pátého*
DATIVE		*pátému*	*páté*	*pátému*
ACCUSATIVE		*pátý, pátého•*	*pátou*	*páté*
LOCATIVE	o	*pátém*	*páté*	*pátém*
INSTRUMENTAL		*pátým*	*pátou*	*pátým*

•animate forms

HARD - PLURAL

	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOMINATIVE	*páté, pátí**	*páté*	*pátá*
GENITIVE	*pátých*	*pátých*	*pátých*
DATIVE	*pátým*	*pátým*	*pátým*
ACCUSATIVE	*páté*	*páté*	*pátá*
LOCATIVE	*opátých*	*pátých*	*pátých*
INSTRUMENTAL	*pátými*	*pátými*	*pátými*

* animate forms

Examples:

Žije v USA od prvního ledna. (He has been living in the USA since the 1st of January.)

Přečtěte si na zítra dvanáctou lekci. (Read the twelfth lesson for tomorrow.)

In spoken Czech, usually the last two digits of a numeral are declined, but in the literary language all digits are inflected.

Na výstavě jsem byl tři sta padesátým druhým návštěvníkem.

Literary form: *Na výstavě jsem byl třístým padesátým druhým návštěvníkem.*

(At the exhibition, I was the three hundred fifty-second visitor.)

Ordinal numerals also can be used in adverbial constructions such as the following:

za prvé	firstly	*poprvé*	for the first time
za druhé	secondly	*podruhé*	for the second time
za třetí	thirdly	*potřetí*	for the third time

5.4 Dual Numerals

Dual numerals function with nouns which appear in pairs or with nouns which are grammatically plural. They answer the question *kolikerý*? (how many pairs?):

with nouns which appear in pairs

Na cestu si vzala jedny punčochy.	(She took one [pair] of stockings for the trip.)
Koupil jsem si dvoje boty.	(I bought two pairs of shoes.)

with nouns which are grammatically plural

Koupil jsem jedny noviny.	(I bought one newspaper.)
V přízemí jsou troje dveře.	(There are three doors on the first floor.)

Following is a list of the most frequently used dual numerals:

jedny	*patery*	*devatery*
dvoje	*šestery*	*desatery*
troje	*sedmery*	*etc.*
čtvery	*osmery*	*několikery* (a few pairs)

5.4.1 Declension of Dual Numerals

The numeral *jedny* is declined like the demonstrative pronoun *ten*. (See 5.11, #1.)

The numerals *dvoje*, *troje* are declined like the plural forms of the soft adjectives, except in the accusative and nominative case, where the forms *dvoje* and *troje* are preserved.

NOMINATIVE	*dvoje*
GENITIVE	*dvojích*
DATIVE	*dvojím*
ACCUSATIVE	*dvoje*
LOCATIVE	o *dvojích*
INSTRUMENTAL	*dvojími*

The numerals *čtvery*, *patery*, *šestery*, etc., are like the plural forms of the hard adjectives, except in the accusative and nominative case where the form ***-ery*** is preserved.

NOMINATIVE	*čtvery*
GENITIVE	*čtverých*
DATIVE	*čtverým*
ACCUSATIVE	*čtvery*
LOCATIVE	o *čtverých*
INSTRUMENTAL	*čtverými*

Dual numeral constructions may be expressed by equivalent constructions using *jeden pár, dva páry, tři páry,* etc.

Mám dvoje boty.	(I have two pairs of shoes.)
Mám dva páry bot.	(I have two pairs of shoes.)

The noun *pár* - (pair) declines only if it actually means two pieces . If it means several, the form doesn't change, e.g., *Mluvil jsem s pár lidmi* - (I talked to several people.)

5.5 Multiple Numerals

Multiple numerals express multiple occurrence of a particular object.

To je dvojitá stěna.	(This is a double wall.)
To je trojnásobná délka.	(This is triple length.)
To je pětinásobná výška.	(This is five times higher.)

The following are the most frequently used multiple numerals:

jednoduchý (simple, single)
dvojnásobný (double)
dvojitý (double)
trojnásobný (triple)
trojitý (triple)
čtyřnásobný (quadruple)
pětinásobný (quintuple)
šestinásobný (sextuple)

The multiple numerals *dvojnásobný* and *trojnásobný* have variant forms *dvojitý* and *trojitý*. Notice how they are used:

dvojnásobný vítěz	(double winner [one person])
dvojitá stěna	(double wall [actually two walls])
trojnásobná spotřeba benzínu	(triple consumption of gas [increase three times in quantity])
trojitá vrstva	(triple layer [actually three layers])

All multiple numerals are declined like hard adjectives.

5.6 Indefinite Quantifiers

Indefinite quantifiers express estimated quantities which cannot be represented by a figure.

V Brně je několik barokních kostelů.	(There are several baroque churches in Brno.)
Na rohu stálo mnoho lidí.	(Many people were standing at the corner.)
Mám trochu peněz.	(I have a litttle money.)

The following are the most frequently used indefinite quantifiers:

hodně (a lot)	*několik* (some, several)
mnoho (many, such)	*tolik* (so many, so much)
moc (a lot, plenty)	*málo* (few, little)
dost (enough)	*trochu* (little, a little bit)

Nouns functioning in constructions with the indefinite quantifiers are always in genitive plural, with the exception of the collective nouns which are in genitive singular.

Nekoupil jsem dost cigaret.	(I didn't buy enough cigarettes.)
Na parkovišti bylo málo aut.	(There were few cars in the parking lot.)

The collective nouns *voda* (water), *mléko* (milk), *pivo* (beer), etc., do not appear in plural.

V láhvi je trochu mléka.	(There is a little milk in the bottle.)
Včera jsme vypili mnoho piva.	(Yesterday we drank a lot of beer.)
V rybníku nebylo dost vody.	(There wasn't enough water in the pond.)

The indefinite quantifier *trochu* (a little bit) is generally used with collective nouns.

Koupil jsem trochu másla.	(I bought a little bit of butter.)
Měl jsem trochu času.	(I had a little bit of free time.)
Zde je trochu oleje.	(Here is a little bit of oil.)

5.6.1 Declension of the Indefinite Quantifiers

When declining the indefinite numerals *mnoho, několik, tolik, málo* and the question word *kolik* (how much, how many), the ending *-a* is added, except in the accusative case.

Zabýval se mnoha případy.	(He was occupied with many cases.)
Vyprávěl o několika knihách.	(He talked about several books.)
Slyšel jsem několik zajímavých zpráv.	(I have heard several interesting news [items].)

The indefinite quantifiers *moc* and *hodně* are usually in the nominative and accusative cases. Should they appear in other cases, they will not change.

Mám moc práce.	(I have a lot of work. [I'm very busy].)
Slyšel jsem hodně špatných zpráv.	(I heard a lot of bad news.)

The indefinite quantifier *dost* in cases other than the accusative adds the ending *-i* in its declension.

Slyšel jsem o dosti případech.	(I have heard about enough cases.)
Nemluvil jsem s dosti lidmi.	(I have not talked to enough people.)
Četl jsem o tom dost článků.	(I have read enough articles about it.)

The declension of *trochu* has the forms of the hard feminine noun *trocha*.

S trochou benzínu jsem se dostal až domu.	(With just a little bit of gas I got home.)
Přidejte do chemikálie trochu vody.	(Add to the chemical a small quantity of water.)

NOMINATIVE	*trocha*
GENITIVE	*trochy*
DATIVE	*troše*
ACCUSATIVE	*trochu*
LOCATIVE	*o troše*
INSTRUMENTAL	*trochou*

Nouns as quantifiers follow their particular gender and noun pattern, e.g.: *spousta, hromada, moře*, etc., all of them meaning "a lot of, lots of".

5.6.2 Functions of Nouns with Indefinite Quantifiers

Nouns functioning with indefinite quantifiers have the same endings as when functioning with cardinal numerals, i. e., genitive case forms are used in the nominative and accusative case. All cases use appropriate case forms.

Mám mnoho přátel.	(I have many friends.)
Mluvil o mnoha přátelích.	(He talks about many friends.)
Stýka se s mnoha přáteli.	(He meets many of this friends.)

5.6.3 Indefinite Quantifiers in Compound Words

The indefinite quantifiers may form compounds with multiple numerals.

několik (several)	- *několikanásobný* (several times)
mnoho (many)	- *mnohanásobný* (many times)

On byl několikanásobný mistr světa. (He was world champion several times.)

Or they can be a part of a compound which denotes multiplication.

několikrát	- (several times)
mnohokrát	- (many times)
tolikrát	- (so many times)

5.7 Decimal Numerals

Czech uses a comma instead of a decimal point. Decimal numerals are read in the following way:

2, 3	*dvě celé tři (desetiny)*
8, 5	*osm celých pět (desetin)*
83, 46	*osmdesát tři celých čtyřicet šest (setin)*

The number before the comma is called *celá* (the whole). It is a hard adjective, feminine in gender.

jedna celá	*čtyři celé*
dvě celé	*pět celých*
tři celé	

The decimal number is *jedna desetina* (0,1), *jedna setina* (0,01), *jedna tisícina* (0,001).
The decimal numerals which have zero or zeros behind the comma such as

3,05; 4,0085; 53,00016, etc., can also be read:

3,05	*tři celé nula pět*
4,0085	*čtyři celé nula nula osmdesát pět*
53,00016	*padesát tři celých nula nula nula šestnáct.*

When declined, all parts of a number must have appropriate case endings.

3,45	*tři celé čtyřicet pět setin*

Mluvíme o třech celých čtyřiceti pěti setinách.

5. 8 Telling Time

1. *Kolik je hodin?* (What time is it?)

Forms of the responses:

on the hour

Je jedna hodina.	(It is one o'clock)
Jsou dvě hodiny.	(It is two o'clock)

Jsou tři hodiny. (It is three o'clock)
Jsou čtyři hodiny. (It is four o'clock)
but: *Je pět hodin.* (It is five o'clock)

quarter past (expressed as "quarter towards" the next hour)

Je čtvrt na jednu. (It is quarter past twelve.)
Je čtvrt na dvě. (It is quarter past one.)
Je čtvrt na tři. (It is quarter past two.)
Je čtvrt na čtyři. (It is quarter past three.)
Je čtvrt na pět. (It is quarter past four.)

The hour to which the quarter relates is in the accusative case. The word *hodina* (hour) is understood.

half past (expressed as "half of" the next hour)

Je půl jedné. (It is half past twelve.)
Je půl druhé. (It is half past one.)
Je půl třetí. (It is half past two.)
Je půl čtvrté. (It is half past three.)
Je půl páté. (It is half past four.)

The hour to which the half relates is in the genitive case. (The form *půl jedné* is an exception.)

quarter of (expressed as three quarters towards the next hour)

Je tři čtvrtě na jednu. (It is quarter of one.)
Je tři čtvrtě na dvě. (It is quarter of two.)
Je tři čtvrtě na tři. (It is quarter of three.)
Je tři čtvrtě na čtyři. (It is quarter of four.)
Je tři čtvrtě na pět. (It is quarter of five.)

If the time is in minutes, the minutes are related to the previously mentioned points of reference.

1.05 *Je jedna a pět minut.*
("It's one and 5 minutes.)

or *Je za deset minut čtvrt na dvě.*
("in 10 minutes quarter towards two")

3.20 *Je čtvrt na čtyři a pět minut.*
("quarter towards 4 and 5 minutes")

or *Je za deset minut půl čtvrté.*
("in 10 minutes half of 4")

10.35 *Je půl jedenácté a pět minut.*
("half of 11 and 5 minutes")

Je za deset minut tři čtvrtě na jedenáct.
("in 10 minutes three quarters towards 11")

4.55 *Je za pět minut pět.*
("in 5 minutes 5")

Je tři čtvrtě na pět a deset minut.
("three quarters towards 5 and 10 minutes")

2. *V kolik hodin?* (At what time?)

Forms of the responses:

Two prepositions may be used to form the response, ***v*** (e) and ***za***. The ***za*** preposition is used in constructions meaning "in a certain number of minutes to a point of reference." All others use *v* (e). The numerals and nouns in the time construction are in the accusative case.

v (e)	*Film začíná v jednu hodinu.*	(The movie starts at one o'clock.)
	Vlak odjíždí ve dvě hodiny.	(The train leaves at two o'clock.)
	Obchod zavírá ve čtvrt na dvě.	(The store closes at quarter past one.)
	Autobus přijel v půl šesté.	(The bus came at half past five.)
	Letadlo odletělo ve čvrt na jednu a deset minut.	(The plane left at twenty-five past twelve.)
	Budík začal zvonit ve tři čtvrtě na deset a osm minut.	(The alarm clock started to ring at seven minutes to ten).

za	*Schůze začala za deset minut čvrt na dvě.*	(The meeting started at five past one.)
	Přednáška skončila za deset minut půl osmé.	(The lecture ended at twenty past seven.)
	Taxi přijelo za pět minut tři čtvrtě na šest.	(The cab arrived at twenty to six.)

Note that the constructions *půl*, *čtvrt* and *tři čvrtě* are not declined.

In addition to the conventional way of telling time, there is also the so-called "military style" which is used in mass transportation and by radio and TV announcers.

Je přesně 8. 36.	(8:36 a. m.)
Vlak odjede v 15.25.	(3:25 p. m.)
Letadlo přistálo ve 22. 48.	(10:48 p. m.)

6. VERBS

6.1 General Characteristics

Every conjugated Czech verb has the following grammatical features:

person	-	(1st. **I**, 2nd. **you**, 3rd. **he**, etc.)
number	-	(singular or plural)
tense	-	(present, past, future)
mood	-	(indicative, imperative, conditional)
voice	-	(active or passive)

In the past tense and in the passive voice, the verb will also indicate the gender of the subject - masculine, feminine, or neuter.

Verbal aspect is another important feature of Czech verbs. Most verbs function in pairs; one form is used to denote imperfective aspect, the other form denotes perfective aspect.

6.2 The verb *být* (to be)

The verb ***být,*** in addition to its primary function as the verb "to be", is used as an auxiliary verb to form the past tense, future tense, passive voice and its derived particle *(bych)* help to form the conditional mood. The functions of ***být*** as the verb "to be" are presented in this section. For its function as an auxiliary, see the sections on the passive voice and conditional mood.

Pronouns are usually omitted in a sentence. The 2nd person singular is a familiar verb form used in personal relationships. The ***vy*** form is a "polite" form.

	Present Tense			
	Singular		Plural	
1st person	*(já - I)*	*jsem*	*(my - we)*	*jsme*
2nd person	*(ty - you, familiar)*	*jsi*	*(vy - you)*	*jste*
3rd person	*(on, ona, ono - he, she, it)*	*je*	*(oni, ony, ona - they)*	*jsou*

Alena je z Moravy.	(Alena is from Moravia.)
Já jsem starší než on.	(I am older than him.)
Vy jste pan Procházka, že ano?	(You are Mr. Prochazka, aren't you?)

Past Tense

já jsem byl	*my jsme byli*
ty jsi byl	*vy jste byli*
on byl	*oni byli*
ona byla	*ony byly*
ono bylo	*ona byla*

Byli jsme v Evropě minulý rok.	(We were in Europe last year.)
Josef byl včera u Petra.	(Joseph was at Peter's yesterday.)
Byl jsem doma celý den.	(I was at home all day.)

Future Tense

budu	*budeme*
budeš	*budete*
bude	*budou*

Co budete dělat zítra?	(What are you going to do tomorrow?)
Pavel bude studovat v Praze na universitě.	(Paul will study in Prague at the university.)
Budu s ním mluvit ještě jednou.	(I will talk to him once again.)

Negative Forms

nejsem	*nejsme*
nejsi	*nejste*
není	*nejsou*

Bratr ještě není doma. (Brother is not home yet.)
Nejsem tak starý jako on. (I am not as old as he is.)
Nejsou ještě připraveni. (They're not ready yet.)

Imperative Forms

Singular		Plural
1st. person	--	*bud'me*
2nd. person	*bud'*	*bud'te*
3rd. person	*at' je*	*at' jsou*

Bud' doma v osm hodin. (Be home at eight o'clock.)
Bud'te připraven na nejhorší. (Be ready for the worst.)
At' je připraven na cestu. (He must be ready for the trip.)

6.3 Infinitive Forms

The infinitive of the verb is the form which appears in the dictionary. It does not have the verbal features such as person, number, tense, mood and voice. The older infinitive ending which is today preserved in literary or poetic language is ***-ti***. In modern spoken Czech the vowel ***i*** has been dropped in most cases, and the hard consonant ***t*** is used instead.

dělati (to do) - *dělat*
choditi (to walk) - *chodit*
pracovati (to work) - *pracovat*

A small number of verbs have the infinitive ending ***-ci***. *téci* (to flow)
péci (to bake)
říci (to tell)

In colloquial Czech the vowel i is dropped and replaced by the hard consonant ***t***. *téct*
péct
říct

6.4 Verbal Aspect

Most verbs in Czech function as two closely related pairs. One form builds imperfective forms, the other, perfective forms.

Imperfective aspect		Perfective aspect
střílet	(to shoot)	*střelit*
psát	(to write)	*napsat*
dávat	(to give)	*dát*
kupovat	(to buy)	*koupit*

The imperfective aspect forms emphasize action. They denote a process which has some duration or reoccurrence. Imperfective verbs comprehend the action itself without any reference to its beginning or end.

Perfective verbs refer to a particular phase or point in the action, usually its completion. Sometimes they refer to the initial phase of action. Action is viewed as a complete process with a beginning and an end.

Graphically, imperfective action may be represented by a line or several lines occurring regularly or irregularly.

durative action: _____

regular repetitive _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

irregular repetitive action. __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

Perfective verbs may be represented by a circle, a single completed action.

Imperfective verbs function in the present tense since they denote a process which has duration. Perfective verbs do not function in the present tense since they denote a completed process. Verbs of both aspects function in the past and future tenses.

Present	-	Imperfective
Past	-	Imperfective
		Perfective
Future	-	Imperfective
		Perfective

Compare the meaning of the following examples. (The forms of the verbs are discussed later.)

Present

Čtu dobrou knihu.

(I am reading a good book.)
imperfective - process, duration

Past

Četl jsem celou cestu.

(I read during the entire trip.)
imperfective - process, duration

Včera jsem přečetl pět kapitol.

(I read five chapters last night.)
perfective - completed action

Future

Za dva měsíce budu číst české noviny.

(I will be reading Czech newspapers in two months.)
imperfective - repetitive action

Přečtu ten článek dnes večer.

(I'll read this article tonight.)
perfective - completed action

Present

Dělá něco velmi zajímavého.

(He is doing something very interesting.)
imperfective - process, duration

Past

On dělal takovou práci.

(He used to do this kind of work.)
imperfective - repetitive action

Udělal něco velmi špatného.

(He did something very bad.)
perfective - completed action

Future

Co budete dělat v Praze?

(What will you be doing in Prague?)
imperfective - repetitive action

Uděláte to dnes večer?

(Will you do it tonight?)
perfective - completed action

116

6.4.1 Relationship between Aspectual Pairs

Aspectual pairs relate to each other in the following ways:

1. Different vowels in the stem.

imperfective		perfective
střílet	(to shoot)	*střelit*
kupovat	(to buy)	*koupit*

2. The perfective aspect is formed by adding a prefix.

imperfective		perfective
dělat	(to do)	*udělat*
psát	(to write)	*napsat*
chválit	(to praise)	*pochválit*

In the examples above, the prefixes ***u-***, ***na-*** did not change the meaning of the verbs, only their aspect. The prefix that does not change the meaning of the verb is called an "empty" prefix. Other prefixes in ocombination with these verbs will not only change the aspect, but also the meaning of the verbs. Prefixes ***u-***, ***na-***, when added to other verbs, however, may also change their meaning. Prefixes can be added to imperfective and perfective verbs.

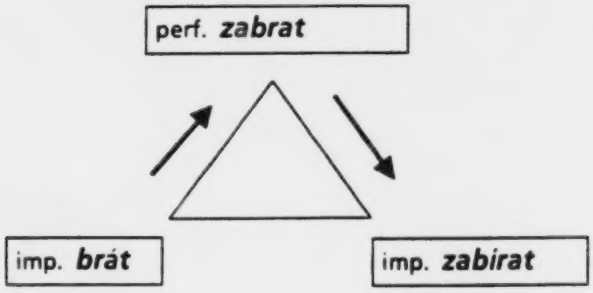
imperfective	perfective	related perfective, different meaning
psát (to write)	*napsat* (to write)	*opsat* (to copy)
řezat (to cut)	*říznout* (to cut)	*vyřezat* (to cut out)
jet (to go)	-	*přijet* (to arrive)
kupovat (to buy)	*koupit* (to buy)	*nakoupit* (to shop)
střílet (to shoot)	*střelit* (to shoot)	*zastřelit* (to shoot dead)

Some verb may use combination of the reflexive particle ***si*** and the the prefix ***za-*** to form the perfective aspect. In such case an idea of enjoyment is added to the perfective verbs, e.g.:

plavat (to swim)	*zaplavat si*
kouřit (to smoke)	*zakouřit si*
zpívat (to sing)	*zazpívat si*

3. In case we want to change the newly formed perfective verb the meaning of which, however, was effected by the prefix in to an imperfective one, the use of an appropriate suffix is necessary. This process is called triangular construction.

imperfective	perfective	imperfective
brát (to take)	*zabrat* (to confiscate)	*zabírat*



Depending on the basic (without a prefix) imperfective form, various suffixes can be used.
Many verbs of the 1st class ending in **-at** will use the suffix **-ávat**, e.g:

dát (to give)	*podat* (to hand over)	*podávat*
nechat (to leave)	*vynechat* (to skip)	*vynechávat*
volat (to call)	*odvolat* (to recant)	*odvolávat*

Many verbs of the 3rd class ending in **-it** use the suffix **-ovat**.

koupit (to buy)	*vykoupit* (off)	*vykupovat*
střelit (to shoot)	*ustřelit* (to shoot off)	*ustřelovat*
soudit (to judge)	*odsoudit* (to condemn)	*odsuzovat*
hodit (to throw)	*zahodit* (to throw away)	*zahazovat* (note the consonantal change)

Verbs of the 2nd class, such as *brát, zvát číst, krýt, žít* and *moci* will change as follows :

brát (to take)	*zabrat* (to confiscate)	*zabírat*
zvát (to invite)	*vyzvat* (to appeal)	*vyzývat*
číst (to read)	*odečíst* (to subtract)	*odčítat*
krýt (to cover)	*ukrýt* (to hide)	*ukrývat*
žít (to live)	*prožít* (experience)	*prožívat*
moci (can)	*pomoci* (help)	*pomáhat*

Special attention has to be paid to the verbs of motion, because of their numerous combinations with various prefixes :

nést (to carry)	*přinést* (to bring)	*přinášet*
vést (to lead)	*odvést* (lead away)	*odvádět*
vézt (to haul)	*vyvézt* (to export)	*vyvážet*
jet (to go by vehicle)	*přijet* (to arrive)	*přijíždět*
jít (to walk)	*odejít* (walk away)	*odcházet*
plout (to sail)	*vyplout* (sail out)	*vyplouvat*
letět (to fly)	*přiletět* (to arrive by plane)	*přilétat*

Perfective verbs having the suffix **-*nout*** usually drop it.

kopnout (to kick)	*kopat*
zvednout (to lift)	*zvedat*
kousnout (to bite)	*kousat*
but	
ohnout (to bend)	*ohýbat*
dotknout se (to touch)	*dotýkat se*

The verb *jmout* (to take) - *jímat* behaves similarly.

Some verbs contract the suffix .

napomenout (to admonish)	*napomínat*
usnout (to fall asleep)	*usínat*
napnout (to stretch)	*napínat*

Other verbs use suffix **-*ovat***.

navrhnout (to suggest)	*navrhovat*
vydechnout (to breathe out)	*vydechovat*

Some verbs have only one aspectual form. Very few verbs may be used to express either aspect, depending on the context.

Only perfective: *nadchnout se* (to get enthusiastic)
zahlédnout (to catch a glimpse)
dokázat (to be able to)

Only imperfective: *být* (to be), *žít* (to live), *mít* (to have)

Both aspects: *věnovat* (to dedicate), *hodit se* (to fit), *obětovat* (to sacrifice)

Some imperfective verbs may be perfective in the past tense, especially those of foreign origin .

hlasovat (to vote), *pravit* (to say), *varovat* (to warn), *kapitulovat* (to capitulate), *sabotovat* (to sabotage), *rekonstruovat* (to reconstruct) , etc.

4. Remember that after verbs indicating beginning and end of some activity, such as *začít* - to start, *zahájit* - to commence, convene, *přestat* - to stop, *skončit* - to finish, only an imperfective verb can be used since it would be illogical to start or finish an action that is already completed.

5. The following is a list of verbal prefixes:

do-	to, into	*dojít, dojet*	to arrive
na-	on top of	*nanést, najet*	to apply (paint), to hit (by car)
ob (e)-	around	*obejít*	walk around
nad (e)-	over, above, up	*nadzvednout*	to lift
pod (e)	under	*podjet*	to go under
pro-	through	*prostřelit*	to shoot through
pře-	over, across	*přenést*	to carry over
před (e)-	in front of	*předjet*	to pass (a vehicle)
při-	to	*přidělat*	to attach
roz (e)-	apart	*rozejít se*	to part
s (e)-	together, down	*spadnout*	to fall down
u-	away, off	*uříznout*	to cut off
v (e)	in, inside	*vběhnout*	to run inside
vy-	out of	*vytáhnout*	to pull out
vz (e)-	up	*vzlétnout*	to soar
za-	behind	*zapadnout*	to fall behind

Note that the prefix may expand if followed by another consonant, e.g., *obletět* but *obejít*, *rozpadnout se* but *rozehnat*, *předjet* but *předepsat*, etc.

120

Some of this prefixes in combination with certain verbs lose their meaning and are used only to form a perfective verb, such as ***u***, ***na*** and ***za***, e.g.:

dělat (imp.)	*udělat* (perf.) - to do
psát (imp.)	*napsat* (perf.) - to write
stavět (imp)	*zastavit* (perf.) - to stop

Among predominantly "empty" prefixes used only to form the perfective aspect, belong also ***po*** and ***z*** (sometimes spelled "s") e.g.: *chytat* - *pochytat* (to catch), *vadnout* - *zvadnout* (to wilt).

6.4.2 Identifying Aspect

The best way to identify the aspect of a verb is to identify clues in the meaning of the sentence and the context.

Čekal dlouho. (He waited a long time.)
The word *dlouho* indicates duration, thus - imperfective.

Prodal auto. (He sold his car.)
Completed action is indicated, thus - perfective.

Only a few hints can be mentioned for recognizing the aspect of a verb purely by its form.

1) most verbs ending in ***-ovat*** and without any prefix are imperfective
studovat (to study), *pracovat* (to work), *kupovat* (to buy)

2) most of the verbs ending in ***-nout*** or ***-it*** with a prefix are perfective
zapomenout (to forget), *seknout* (to chop), *zahodit* (to throw away)

Knowing only one verb of an aspectual pair, it is not possible to predict the form of the other verb of pair. A dictionary must be consulted. However, if one aspectual form is known and the other form is encountered, it is easy to see the relationship between the two forms.

6.5 Conjugating Verbs

In the present and future tense, verbs have endings for person and number (I, you , he , she, etc.) In the past tense they have endings which indicate gender (masculine, feminine, neuter) both in singular and plural. Also, masculine animate and inanimate are distinguished in the plural. Systems of endings applied to verbs are called conjugations.

6.5.1 The Present Tense

Only imperfective verbs function in the present tense. There are three conjugations, which are defined by the endings on the stem.

Conjugation I

dělat - to do

(já)	*dělám* (I do, I am doing)	*(my)*	*děláme*
(ty)	*děláš*	*(vy)*	*děláte*
(on, ona, ono)	*dělá*	*(oni, ony, ona)*	*dělají*

The pronouns are usually not used. They are used here to illustrate the person.

Co děláš? (What are you doing?)
On dělá velmi zajímavou práci. (He does very interesting work.)

Conjugation II

číst - to read hard stem		*psát* - to write soft stem	
čtu (I read, I am reading)	*čteme*	*píši*	*píšeme*
čteš	*čtete*	*píšeš*	*píšete*
čte	*čtou*	*píše*	*píší*

The differences between the hard and soft groups are in the first person singular and third person plural. The ***-u***, ***-ou*** endings are added to stems which end in hard or neutral consonants. The

-i, -í endings are usually added to stems which end in soft consonants. The stems ending in the consonants ***ž, š, č, ř, c, j*** are considered soft; all the rest are hard.

hard			soft		
beru (I take)	-	*berou* (they take)	*šiji* (I sew)	-	*šijí* (they sew)
nesu (I carry)	-	*nesou* (they carry)	*píši* (I write)	-	*píší* (they write)

In the spoken and colloquial language the influence of the hard stem endings, ***-u, -ou***, is very strong, and those may appear on soft stem verbs, rather than ***-i, -í***.

colloquial	colloquial
píši - píšu (I write)	*píší - píšou* (they drink)
piji - piju (I drink)	*pijí - pijou* (they drink)
pláči - pláču (I cry)	*pláčí - pláčou* (they cry)

Verbs which in the present or future (perfective verbs) tense undergo a change in the stem in addition to the verbal endings are usually referred to as irregular verbs.

jít (to go)	*jdu*	
moci (can)	*mohu*	
vědět (to know)	*vím*	only ***v*** is left from the whole stem
chtít (to want)	*chci*	
mýt (to wash)	*myji*	
brát (to take)	*beru*	
hnát (to chase)	*ženu*	

etc.

Examples of conjugation II verbs:

Pan Nový pracuje v továrně.	(Mr. Novy works in a factory.)
V našem kurzu čteme zajímavý materiál.	(We're reading interesting material in our course.
Oni považují tuto otázku za velmi důležitou.	(They consider this question very important.)

Some verbs of the second class may soften their stem consonant, e.g: *orat - oř u, česat -češu, péci - peču.*

The following verbs may have the second as well as the first conjugation:

česat (to comb)	*češu*	*česám*
hýbat (to move)	*hýbu*	*hýbám*
klepat (to knock)	*klepu*	*klepám*
klouzat (to slip)	*kloužu*	*klouzám*
kopat (to dig)	*kopu*	*kopám*
koupat (to bathe)	*koupu*	*koupám*
kousat (to bite)	*koušu*	*kousám*

conjugation III

myslet - to think

myslím	*myslíme*
myslíš	*myslíte*
myslí	*myslí (-ejí)*

Verbs whose infinitive forms end in **-et**, **-ět**, may frequently take an **-ejí**, **-ějí** ending in the third person plural.

myslet (to think)	-	*oni myslejí*
vyprávět (to narrate)	-	*oni vyprávějí*
sázet (to plant)	-	*oni sázejí*

Examples of conjugation III verbs:

Jezdím do práce autem.	(I go to work by car.)
Co si o tom myslíte?	(What do you think about that?)
Chodíte často do divadla?	(Do you often go to the theater?)

6.5.1.1 Determining the Conjugation

Each present tense conjugation has unique forms. Thus, when the learner sees one of the present tense conjugation forms on a verb, she/he knows to which conjugation the verb belongs and can apply all the forms of the conjugation. However, the endings of the 3rd person plural, soft IInd conjugation and the 3rd person plural of the IIIrd conjugation are the same. It is not possible to determine the conjugation on the basis of these forms.

The conjugation may often be determined by the infinitive suffix:

Conjugation I

-át, -at: *znát* (to know), *dát* (to give), *dělat* (to do), *sekat* (to chop)

Conjugation II

-ovat: *studovat* (to study), *pracovat* (to work), *diskutovat* (to discuss)
In conjugating these verbs, the **-va-** is always dropped and the vowel **o** changes to **u**.
studuji (I study), *pracujeme* (we work), *diskutují* (they discuss)

-nout*: *zapomenout* (to forget), *kopnout* (to kick)
In conjugating these verbs **-ou** is always dropped.
zapomenu (I'll forget), *kopnu* (I'll kick)
*Verbs with this suffix are usually perfective and are used in the future tense.

Conjugation III

-it, -et, -ět: *chodit* (to go), *prosit* (to beg), *ležet* (to lie), *sedět* (to sit), etc.

6.5.1.2 Negating Present Tense Verbs

The present tense verb is negated by the particle **ne-** which becomes part of the verb.

Neznám ho. (I don't know him.)
Poručík Janda dnes nemá službu. (Lieutenant Janda is not on duty today.)
Nesmíte nechat auto otevřené. (You must not leave the car unlocked.)

The verb must always be negated after a subject consisting of a negative pronoun.

Nikdo tam nepracuje. (Nobody works there.)
Nikdo nemá peníze. (Nobody has money.)
Nic tam není. (There is nothing there.)

6.5.1.3 Questions in the Present Tense

Questions in the present tense are formed by reversing the order of the subject and verb. The intonation is also changed.

Pavel má nové auto.	*Má Pavel nové auto?*
(Paul has a new car.)	(Does Paul have a new car?)
Sestra bydlí v Bratislavě.	*Bydlí sestra v Bratislavě?*
([My] Sister lives in Bratislava.)	(Does [your] sister live in Bratislava?)

The word order does not change if the subject of the sentence is a personal pronoun, which is usually omitted, except for emphasis. In such cases only the intonation changes.

Chodíš často do kina.	*Chodíš často do kina?*
(You go to the movies often.)	(Do you go to the movies often?)

6.5.2 The Future Tense

Perfective verbs function to express an action that will take place in the future. The action is seen as an entire completed event. These future tense forms are conjugated in the same way as the present tense forms.

Conjugation I

udělat - to do

udělám (I will do)	*uděláme*
uděláš	*uděláte*
udělá	*udělají*

Přiletím zítra večer.	(I'll arrive by plane tomorrow evening.)
Koupíme si nové brusle.	(We'll buy a new pair of skates.)
On vyzkouší ten nový stroj.	(He'll try out the new machine.)

Conjugation II	
přečíst - to read	
přečtu (I will read)	*přečteme*
přečteš	*přečtete*
přečte	*přečtou*

Conjugation III	
koupit - to buy	
koupím (I will buy)	*koupíme*
koupíš	*koupíte*
koupí	*koupí (-ějí)*

Imperfective verbs function in structures which express processes that will take place in the future, that will have duration, or will be repetitive. These structures consist of the future tense of the verb ***být*** (to be) plus the infinitive form of the imperfective verb.

budu studovat	-	I'll study or I'll be studying
budeš studovat	-	you'll study
bude studovat	-	he, she, it will study
budeme studovat	-	we'll study
budete studovat	-	you'll study
budou studovat	-	they'll study

Budeme pracovat na té knize asi půl roku. (We'll work on this book for about half a year.)

Budeš s ním mluvit večer? (Are you going to speak to him tonight?)

Bude jezdit do práce autobusem. (He'll go to work by bus.)

The negative of *budu* is *nebudu*.

Nebude jezdit do práce autobusem. (He will not go to work by bus.)

Many imperfective verbs of motion will form their future tense by the prefix ***po-***, rather then using the auxilliary ***budu***, e.g.

běžet (to run)	*poběžím*
jet (to go - vehicular motion)	*pojedu*
letět (to fly)	*poletím*
lézt (to crawl)	*polezu*
plavat (to swim)	*poplavu*
téci (to flow)	*poteče*
táhnout (to pull - in military sense)	*potáhnu*
hnát (to chase)	*poženu*
vléci (to drag)	*povleču*
nést (to carry)	*ponesu*
vést (to lead)	*povedu*
vézt (to haul)	*povezu*

6.5.3 The Past Tense

The past tense expresses action which was either perfective or imperfective. It is always signalled by the presence of the consonant **l** in the ending of the word.

Přijel jsem do Brna v osm hodin.	(I arrived in Brno at 8 o'clock.)
Prezident přijal nového velvyslance.	(The President received a new ambassador.)
Škola začala 1. září.	(School started September 1st.)

6.5.3.1 Formation of the Past Tense

The past tense consists of present tense forms of the verb *být* (to be) plus a verb with the l-form endings. The **l**- form endings can often be added to the infinitive form minus the **-t**.

infinitive	**l**-form
dělat (to do)	*dělal* (he did)
slyšet (to hear)	*slyšel* (he heard)
koupit (to buy)	*koupil* (he bought)

Following are the **l**- form endings. There is strict agreement in gender. The plural forms also distinguish animate and inanimate.

The verb *být* does not appear with the third person singular and plural.

	Singular	
masculine	*Bratr přijel večer.*	(Brother arrived in the evening.)
feminine	*Sestra přijela večer.*	(Sister arrived in the evening.)
neuter	*Auto přijelo večer.*	(The car arrived in the evening.)
	Plural	
masculine animate	*Přátelé přijeli večer.*	(Friends arrived in the evening.)
masculine inanimate	*Vlaky přijely večer.*	(Trains arrived in the evening.)
feminine	*Sestry přijely večer.*	(The sisters arrived in the evening.)
neuter	*Auta přijela večer.*	(The cars arrived in the evening.)

When the verbal stems ends in a consonant, the following cluster formed by adding the consonant *-l* in the masculine sg. forms a syllable, e.g.:

vést (to lead)	*vedl*
nést (to carry)	*nesl*
vézt (to haul)	*vezl*
říci (to tell)	*řekl*

In the colloquial pronunciation, however, the *-l* consonant is silent if there is no possibility of misunderstanding and the bare stem ending in a consonant carries the meaning of the masculine past tense form, e.g.: *On to nes.* (He carried it), *On ho tam ved.* (He led him there), *On mi to řek.* (He told me that).

Note the agreement between personal pronouns and the *l*-forms endings:

Já jsem přijel.	(masculine)	*My jsme přijeli.*	(masculine)
Já jsem přijela.	(feminine)	*My jsme přijely.*	(feminine)
Ty jsi přijel.	(masculine)	*Vy jste přijeli.*	(masculine)
Ty jsi přijela.	(feminine)	*Vy jste přijely.*	(feminine)

On	*přijel.*	*Oni*	*přijeli.*
Ona	*přijela.*	*Ony*	*přijely.*
Ono	*přijelo.*	*Ona*	*přijela.*

In the second person singular only the auxiliary form *jsi* can be used.

6.5.3.2. Changes in the Verb Stem when Adding l-Form Endings

A number of verbs undergo changes in the stem when *l*-form endings are added. Masculine singular forms are given in the examples following. The other endings ***-la***, ***-lo***, ***-li***, ***-ly***, ***-la*** are also added when they are required for agreement in the sentence.

a. vowel change in the stem

mít	(to have)	-	*měl*
chtít	(to want)	-	*chtěl*
vzít	(to take)	-	*vzal*

b. shortening at the stem vowel

být	(to be)	-	*byl*
znát	(to know)	-	*znal*
spát	(to sleep)	-	*spal*
nést	(to carry)	-	*nesl*

c. change in the stem vowel and the stem consonant

jíst	(to eat)	-	*jedl*
číst	(to read)	-	*četl*
moci	(to be able)	-	*mohl*

d. most verbs having the infinitive ending ***-ci*** will change ***c*** to ***k***

péci	(to bake)	-	*pekl*
téci	(to flow)	-	*tekl*
říci	(to say)	-	*řekl*

e. verbs ending in ***-nout*** contract the diphthong ***-ou-*** to ***-u-***

táhnout	(to pull)	-	*táhnul*
sáhnout	(to touch)	-	*sáhnul*
škrtnout	(to cross out)	-	*škrtnul*

Verbs ending in ***-nout*** may also have another variant, with the omission of the whole suffix.

táhnout	(to pull)	-	*táhl*
sáhnout	(to touch)	-	*sáhl*
škrtnout	(to cross out)	-	*škrtl*
zapomenout	(to forget)	-	*zapomněl*

f. the verb of motion *jít* (to go on foot) has the irregular form ***šel*** (he went)

g. note also that unlike in the present tense all verbs ending in ***-ovat*** retain the infix ***-ova-***

pracovat (to work) - *pracoval*
studovat (to study) - *studoval*
cestovat (to travel) - *cestoval*

6.5.3.3 Negative Forms of the Past Tense

When negating the past tense the negative particle ***ne-*** is always attached to the ***l-*** form verb.

Rychlík z Prahy neměl zpoždění.	(The express train from Prague was not late.)
Nepotkal jsem tam žádné známé.	(I didn't meet any friends there.)
Nechtěl jsem s ním mluvit.	(I didn't want to talk to him.)

6.5.3.4 Word Order

In past tense constructions the auxiliary verb *být* is unstressed. Since no unstressed word can start a Czech sentence, a change in position is made if *být* falls at the beginning of a sentence.

Já jsem tam byl. (I was there.)
Byl jsem tam. /change in word order/

My jsme ho viděli. (We saw him.)
Viděli jsme ho. /change in word order/

The reflexive particles ***se, si*** always follow the auxilliary verb to be.

Koupil jsem si auto.
(I bought a car.)

Vloni jsem si koupil auto.
(I bought a car last year.)

6.5.3.5 Subject-Verb Agreement in the Past Tense

Agreement in gender is an important feature of the past tense.

1. Numbers 5 and above and words such as *kolik, několik, etc.*, require neuter, singular agreement.

Zde bylo několik lidí.	(There were a few people here.)
35 poslanců s návrhem nesouhlasilo.	(35 representatives did not agree with the proposal.)
Kolik žáků studovalo česky?	(How many students studied Czech?)

2. Gender agreement is important in the first and second person singular and also in the third person plural.

1st person, singular:	a man says: *Já jsem byl.* (I was.)
	a woman says: *Já jsem byla.* (I was.)
2nd person, singular:	talking to a man: *Ty jsi byl.* (You were.)
	talking to a woman: *Ty jsi byla.* (You were.)
2nd person, plural:	polite form talking to one man: *Vy jste byl.* (You were.)
	polite form talking to one woman: *Vy jste byla.* (You were.)
	talking to more men: *Vy jste byli.* (You were.)
	talking to more women: *Vy jste byly* .(You were.)

In the last two examples the gender marker is indicated only in the spelling, not in the pronunciation. Similarly:

1st person plural:	men say:	*My jsme byli.* (We were.)
	women say:	*My jsme byly.* (We were.)

6.5.3.6 Sequence of Tenses

When a Czech refers to what someone said, wrote, thought, or heard, he uses the tense that was originally expressed by the person to whom he refers.

Pan Kratochvíl psal, že chodí každý den lyžovat.
(Mr. Kratochvíl wrote that he goes skiing every day.)

Pan Kratochvíl psal, že bude chodit každý den lyžovat.
(Mr. Kratochvíl wrote that he will go skiing every day.)

Pan Kratochvíl psal, že chodil každý den lyžovat.
(Mr. Kratochvíl wrote that he had gone skiing every day.)

6.5.4 Verbs of Motion

Czech has verb forms which describe motion on foot, and motion by means of a vehicle or motion of the vehicle itself. The relationship between tenses and aspects of these forms is complex.

jít (to go on foot)

Present	Past	Future
jdu, jdeme	*šel, šla*	*šli, šly*	*půjdu, půjdeme*
jdeš, jdete	*šel, šla*	*šli, šly*	*půjdeš, půjdete*
jde, jdou	*šel, šla, šlo*	*šli, šly, šla*	*půjde, půjdou*

The verbs above denote a single action in a definite space, at a definite time, and usually in a definite direction. The past tense and future tense have the idea of perfective action.

Jdu domů.	(I am going home.)
Oskar šel na universitu v devět hodin.	(Oscar went to the university at nine.)
Půjdeme s vámi.	(We'll go with you.)

The various forms of the verb *chodit* are the imperfective variants of the verb *jít*. They express the idea of repetition or action regularly carried out.

Present		Past		Future	
chodím	*chodíme*	*chodil, -a*	*chodili, -y*	*budu chodit*	*budeme chodit*
chodíš	*chodíte*	*chodil, -a*	*chodili, -y*	*budeš chodit*	*budete chodit*
chodí	*chodí*	*chodil, -a, -o*	*chodili, -y, -a*	*bude chodit*	*budou chodit*

Chodíš často do kina?	(Do you go to the movies often?)
Dříve jsem chodil častěji do kina.	(I used to go to the movies more often than now.)
Do té restaurace už nebudu chodit.	(I won't be going to that restaurant anymore.)

The verb *chodím* can also mean "I walk."

The verb *jet* (to go by means of a vehicle) functions similarly to the verb *jít*.

Present		Past		Future	
jedu	*jedeme*	*jel, -a*	*jeli, -y*	*pojedu*	*pojedeme*
jedeš	*jedete*	*jel, -a*	*jeli, -y*	*pojedeš*	*pojedete*
jede	*jedou*	*jel, -a -o*	*jeli, -y, -a*	*pojede*	*pojedou*

Motion in a definite space, at a definite time, and usually in a definite direction is indicated.

Jedu domů.	(I am going home [by means of a vehicle].)
Autobus jede na Vinohrady.	(The bus goes to Vinohrady.)
Jel do Brna.	(He [by means of a vehicle]went to Brno.)
Pojedu s vámi.	(I'll go with you [by means of a vehicle].)

The various forms of the verb *jezdit* are the imperfective variants of *jet*.

Present		Past		Future	
jezdim	*jezdíme*	*jezdil, -a*	*jezdili, -y*	*budu jezdit*	*budeme jezdit*
jezdíš	*jezdíte*	*jezdil, -a*	*jezdili, -y*	*budeš jezdit*	*budete jezdit*
jezdí	*jezdí*	*jezdil, -a, -o*	*jezdili, -y, -a*	*bude jezdit*	*budou jezdit*

Jezdím do práce osmičkou. (I go to work by the number 8 [streetcar].)
Jezdil do ciziny velmi často. (He used to travel abroad very often.)
Budu jezdit do Brna velmi často. (I'll be driving to Brno very often.)

The construction *budu jít* or *budu jet* is not possible.

6.6 Reflexive Verbs

There are two reflexive particles in Czech, ***se*** and ***si***, which form reflexive verbs. In some cases the particles ***se*** and ***si*** do not have any meaning. In other cases, ***se*** denotes the subject acting upon itself and reciprocal action. The particle ***si*** can convey possession or the idea of the dative "to oneself."

6.6.1 The Particles *se* and *si* Without Meaning

In the examples following, the particles are part of the verb and do not have any meaning in themselves.

smát se (to laugh)
On se směje tomu vtipu. (He is laughing at the joke.)

divit se (to wonder)
Divím se tomu. (I wonder about that.)

přát si (to wish)
Přeji si, aby zítra nepršelo. (I wish it didn't rain tomorrow.)

6.6.2 The Subject Acting upon Itself and Reciprocal Action

When the particle **se** is attached to a transitive verb (a verb taking the accusative case without a preposition), the sentence expresses action which the subject performs on itself:

transitive verb	reflexive verb
Matka obléká dítě.	*On se obléká dobře.*
(Mother is dressing the child.)	(He dresses [himself] well.)
Pavel myje auto.	*Pavel se myje.*
(Paul is washing the car.)	(Paul is washing [himself].)

In other cases, a transitive verb with **se** can express reciprocal action.

transitive verb	reflexive verb
Já ho znám a on mne zná také.	*My se známe.*
(I know him and he knows me too.)	(We know each other.)
Ty hledáš Karla a Karel hledá tebe.	*Vy se hledáte.*
(You are looking for Charles and Charles is looking for you.	(You are looking for each other.)

Adding the reflexive particle **se** to some transitive verbs may cause a change in their meaning:

objevit	(to discover)	*objevit se*	(to appear)
hodit	(to throw)	*hodit se*	(to suit)
přihodit	(to add by throwing)	*přihodit se*	(to happen)
zmocnit	(to empower)	*zmocnit se*	(to gain by force)

Combination of the reflexive particle **se** and a specific prefix will almost always result in forming a perfective verb carrying a certain characteristic of the action.

na-:	strong, intensive, and repetetive action.

hledat	(to look for)	*nahledat se*
psát	(to write)	*napsat se*
čekat	(to wait)	*načekat se*

pracovat	(to work)	*napracovat se*
nosit	(to carry)	*nanosit se*

pro-: desirable amount of action

běhat	(to run)	*proběhnout se*
jít	(to walk)	*projít se*
spát	(to sleep)	*prospat se*

vy-: to reach relief

spát	(to sleep)	*vyspat se*
močit	(to urinate)	*vymočit se*
smrkat	(to clean one's nose)	*vysmrkat se*

do-: to achieve a goal with lots of effort

čekat	(to wait)	*dočkat se*	to wait untill something finally happens
mluvit	(to talk)	*domluvit se*	to make arrangement
volat	(to call)	*dovolat se*	to get through (by phone)

The new prefixed verb form will frequently take the genitive case, unlike the simple imperfective form.

Hledal jsem tu knihu .	(I was looking for that book).
Té knihy jsem se nahledal .	(I spent lots of time looking for that book).

6.6.3 The Particle *si* Conveying Possession

When the particle ***si*** is attached to a transitive verb, it can convey the idea of possession:

transitive verb	reflexive verb
Josef bude mýt motocykl.	*Josef si bude mýt ruce.*
(Joseph is going to wash the motorcycle.)	(Joseph is going to wash his hands.)

Eva učeše dceru.	*Eva si učeše vlasy.*
(Eve will comb her daughter ['s] hair.)	(Eve will comb her hair.)

6.6.4 The Particle *si* Conveying Action "to oneself"

Říkal jsem to.	*Říkal jsem si to.*
(I said it.)	(I said it to myself.)
Vysvětlil jsem to.	*Vysvětlil jsem si to.*
(I explained it.)	(I explained it to myself.)

6.6.5 Word Order

The reflexive particles ***se*** and ***si*** are never stressed. No sentence can start with them.

Já jsem se včera dobře bavil. (I had a good time yesterday.)
Bavil jsem se včera dobře.
Dobře jsem se včera bavil.
On si koupí nový oblek. (He is going to buy a new suit.)
Koupí si nový oblek.
Příští rok si koupí nový oblek. (Next year he is going to buy a new suit.)

Whenever a reflexive infinitive follows a conjugated verb, the reflexive particle is always next to the conjugated verb, either before or after.

Já se chci jet podívat do Itálie.	(I want to go to see Italy.)
Můžete si někde půjčit 30 Kčs?	(Can you borrow 30 crowns somewhere?)
Za jízdy se nesmíte bavit s řidičem.	(You must not talk to the driver when he is operating the vehicle.)

Adding the reflexive particle ***si*** to some transitive verbs may cause a change in their meaning.

hrát	(to play)	*hrát si*	to play with something or to play like a child
vážit	(to weigh)	*vážit si*	to respect
vést	(to lead)	*vést si*	to behave

6.7 Verbal Mood

In addition to three tenses, Czech verbs have forms which distinguish three moods: indicative, imperative, conditional. The indicative mood views action as reality: "He works in a factory" or "He does not work in a factory." The imperative mood expresses action which the speaker wants to become a reality: "Close the door!" The conditional mood expresses action which is desired or possible: "Would you, please, close the door," or "I would do it, if I could." Modal phrases such as, "I must, I can, etc. do something" also loosely belong to the category of mood .

6.7.1 Modal Phrases

Modal verbs describe a particular attitude (wish, possibility, necessity, etc.) toward the fulfillment of a certain action. A modal phrase consists of a conjugated form of the modal verb and the infinitive form of the verb about which modality is described.

Mohu s vámi mluvit?	(Can I talk to you?)
Smím jet do kina?	(May I go to the movies?)
Chcete to vidět?	(Do you want to see it?)

Following is a list of Czech modal verbs in the present and past tenses. The future tense is formed through a construction of the auxiliary forms *budu, budeš*, etc., the modal verb in the infinitive, plus the main verb in the infinitive.

Present Tense		Past Tense		
		chtít (to want)		
chci	*chceme*	*chtěl, -a jsem*	*chtěli, -y*	*jsme*
chceš	*chcete*	*chtěl, -a jsi*	*chtěli, -y*	*jste*
chce	*chtějí*	*chtěl, -a, -o*	*chtěli, -y,*	*-a*
		moci (to be able to, can)		
můžu (mohu)	*můžeme*	*mohl, -a jsem*	*mohli, -y*	*jsme*
můžeš	*můžete*	*mohl, -a jsi*	*mohli, -y*	*jste*
může	*můžou (mohou)*	*mohl, -a, -o*	*mohli, -y*	*-a*

Present Tense		Past Tense					
	muset (to have to, must)						
musím	*musíme*	*musel,*	*-a*	*jsem*	*museli,*	*-y*	*jsme*
musíš	*musíte*	*musel,*	*-a*	*jsi*	*museli,*	*-y*	*jste*
musí	*musí*	*musel,*	*-a,*	*-o*	*museli,*	*-y,*	*-a*
	smět (to be allowed to, may)						
smím	*smíme*	*směl,*	*-a*	*jsem*	*směli,*	*-y*	*jsme*
smíš	*smíte*	*směl,*	*-a*	*jsi*	*směli,*	*-y*	*jste*
smí	*smějí (smí)*	*směl,*	*-a,*	*-o*	*směli,*	*-y,*	*-a*
	umět (to know how)						
umím	*umíme*	*uměl,*	*-a*	*jsem*	*uměli,*	*-y*	*jsme*
umíš	*umíte*	*uměl,*	*-a*	*jsi*	*uměli,*	*-y*	*jste*
umí	*umějí (umí)*	*uměl,*	*-a,*	*-o*	*uměli,*	*-y,*	*-a*
	dovést (to know how, to have the skill)						
dovedu	*dovedeme*	*dovedl,*	*-a*	*sem*	*dovedli,*	*-y*	*jsme*
dovedeš	*dovedete*	*dovedl*	*-a*	*jsi*	*dovedli,*	*-y*	*jste*
dovede	*dovedou*	*dovedl*	*-a,*	*-o*	*dovedli,*	*-y,*	*-a*

A statement may be negated by placing ***ne*** in front of the modal verb:

musím (I must)	*smím* (I may)
nemusím (I don't have to, I need not)	*nesmím* (I may not, I must not, I am not allowed to)

The idea of possibility expressed in English by the modal verb may is translated into Czech by the adverbial form ***možná***:

On možná přijde zítra.	(He may come tomorrow.)
Možná, že zítra nepřijdu.	(I may not come tomorrow.)
Přijdete zítra? Možná.	(Are you coming tomorrow? Perhaps. [Maybe.])

6.7.2 The Imperative Mood

Imperative mood forms are used to urge a person to perform or not perform some action. This may be in the form of a request, command or warning.

1. *Nejed' tak rychle!* (Don't drive so fast!) (you, familiar form)
   Mluvte nahlas, prosím! (Speak louder please.) (you, polite form)
   Dodělejme to dnes! (Let's finish it today.) (1st person, plural form)

2. *At' pracuje!* (Let him work!) (construction with the particle ***at'*** and the 3rd person, singular)

3. *Stát!* (Stop!)
   (strong command, using the infinitive form)

6.7.2.1 Formation of the Imperative Mood

1. The imperative forms in the first group can be derived by dropping the ending of the 3rd person, plural of the present tense and adding (a) nothing for the familiar form, (b) ***-te*** for the polite form and (c) ***-me*** for the "let's" form. Both aspect forms are used. The perfective forms have future meaning.

	nothing (familiar form)	***-te*** (polite form)	***-me*** (let's)
3rd pers. pl.			
mluví (speak)	*mluv*	*mluvte*	*mluvme*
nesou (carry)	*nes*	*neste*	*nesme*
píší (write)	*piš*	*pište*	*pišme*
When the 3rd person plural ending is ***-ji***, ***-í*** is dropped.			
rozumějí (understand)	*rozuměj*	*rozumějte*	*rozumějme*
pijí (drink)	*pij*	*pijte*	*pijme*
myjí se (wash)	*myj se*	*myjte se*	*myjme se*
If ***a*** precedes, the ending is changed to ***e***:			
dělají (do)	*dělej*	*dělejte*	*dělejme*
dají (give)	*dej*	*dejte*	*dejme*
volají (call)	*volej*	*volejte*	*volejme*

Verbs with stems ending in more than one consonant have the imperative endings ***-i***, ***-ěte***, ***-ěme*** (sometimes ***-ete***, ***-eme*** after ***s***, ***z***, ***l***, ***ž***, ***ř***).

	-i	***-te***	***-me***
3rd pers. pl.	(familiar form)	(polite form)	(let's)
sp-í (sleep)	*spi*	*spěte*	*spěme*
čt-ou (read)	*čti*	*čtěte*	*čtěme*
jd-ou (go)	*jdi*	*jděte*	*jděme*
kresl-í (draw)	*kresli*	*kreslete*	*kresleme*
otevř-ou (open)	*otevři*	*otevřete*	*otevřeme*

Hard consonants ***d***, ***t***, ***n***, which are palatalized before ***í*** will retain their soft pronunciation.

platí (pay)	*plat'*	*plat'te*	*plat'me*
sedí (sit)	*sed'*	*sed'te*	*sed'me*
brání (defend)	*braň*	*braňte*	*braňme*

The stem vowel is always short in monosyllabic imperatives, especially in those formed from the third class category.

á - a	*chválím*	*chval*	(to praise)
	ukážu	*ukaž*	(to show)
	vrátím	*vrat'*	(to return)
í - i	*svítím*	*svit'*	(to shine)
	mířím	*miř*	(to aim)
	uspíším	*uspiš*	(to speed up)
	píši	*piš*	(to write)
ý - y	*zvýším*	*zvyš*	(to increase)
	nemýlím se	*nemyl se*	(to err)
	schýlit se	*schyl se*	(to lean)
ou - u	*prodloužím*	*prodluž*	(to lengthen)
	koupím	*kup*	(to buy)
	kouřím	*kuř*	(to smoke)

Irregular Forms

The following verbs do not form the imperative as regularly as the previously mentioned verbs; stem vowels or consonants undergo change.

3rd pers. pl.	(familiar form)	(polite form)	(let's)
jsou (be)	*buď*	*buďte*	*buďme*
jedí (eat)	*jez*	*jezte*	*jezme*
mají (have)	*měj*	*mějte*	*mějme*
pomohou (help)	*pomoz*	*pomozte*	*pomozme*
stojí (stand)	*stůj*	*stůjte*	*stůjme*
vědí (know)	*věz*	*vězte*	*vězme*
vidí (see)	*viz*	*vizte*	*vizme*

Note also:

Jdi tam.	(Go there.)
Pojď sem.	(Come here.)
Pojď na oběd.	(Come for lunch).
Přijď sem.	(Come here.) (in the future)

Negative Forms

A positive imperative may use either aspect, but a negative imperative may only use imperfective forms.

Positive imperative	Negative imperative
Čti noviny večer.	*Nečti noviny večer.*
Čtěte noviny večer.	*Nečtěte noviny večer.*
Čtěme noviny večer.	*Nečtěme noviny večer.*
Přečti noviny večer.	
Přečtěme noviny večer.	

2. The imperative form in the second group is a construction using the particle ***at'*** (or in a more literary form ***necht'***) plus the 3rd person, singular or plural. It is equivalent to the English construction "let" as in "Let him work."

3rd pers. forms	imperative
řídí (he, she, it drives)	*At' řídí.* (Let him [her, it] drive)
řídí (they drive)	*At' řídí.* (Let them drive.)
pracuje (he, she, it works)	*At' pracuje.* (Let him [her, it] work.)
pracují (they work)	*At' pracují.* (Let them work.)

The negative forms may use only the imperfective verb forms.

At' nechodí.	(Don't let him go.)
At' zde nepracují.	(Don't let them work here.)

3. The last group represents very strong verbal commands, usually used in the military. Infinitive forms are used.

Zaútočit!	(Attack!)
Nestřílet!	(Don't fire!)

6.7.3 The Conditional Mood

Conditional mood forms are used to express the following states:

1. a state which is desired or not desired

Chtěl bych navštívit Evropu.	(I would like to visit Europe.)
Marie by chtěla jet lyžovat.	(Mary would like to go skiing.)
Jsem si jistý, že by to nechtěl dělat.	(I'm sure that he wouldn't like to do that.)

To this category also belong polite request forms:

Mohl byste mi říci, kdy jede vlak do Olomouce?	(Could you tell me when the train for Olomouc leaves?)

2. a state which is possible or not possible depending on certain conditions

Bez pomoci bychom tu práci nedokončili.	(Without help we couldn't have finished the job.)
Kdybych měl čas, šel bych do kina.	(If I had time, I'd go to the movies.)

Note the following form which uses an infinitive:

Mít dost peněz, jel bych do Anglie. (If I had enough money, I'd go to England.)

6.7.3.1 Formation of the Conditional Mood

The conditional mood is expressed through a construction consisting of the ***l***-form of a verb plus the particles ***bych, bys, by, bychom, byste, by.***

Udělal bych to.	(I would do it.)
Udělal bys to.	(You would do it.)
Udělal (-a) by to.	(He [she] would do it.)
Udělali bychom to.	(We would do it.)
Udělali byste to.	(You would do it.)
Udělali by to.	(They would do it.)

In colloquial Czech, the first person plural may also be *bysme*.

6.7.3.2 Negative Forms

In negative forms of the conditional mood, the prefix ***ne-*** is added to the ***l***-form of the verb.

Nedělal bych to, kdybych nemusel. (I wouldn't do that, if I didn't have to.)

Negative forms are also used for an extra degree of politeness.

Nemohl byste mi říci, kolik je hodin?	(Could you [please] tell me what time it is?)

6.7.3.3 Conditional Mood Word Order

Vy byste nepoznal toho člověka.
Nepoznal byste toho člověka.

(You wouldn't recognize that man.)

The reflexive verbs also have variations in the position of the particles ***se*** and ***si***. Note that the particles always follow the conditional ones.

On by se nestaral dobře o to auto.

Nestaral by se dobře o to auto.

(He wouldn't take care of that car.)

6.7.3.4 "If" Clauses

This is the second type of conditional mood form mentioned in 6.7.3.

Kdybych měl čas, šel bych do kina. (If I had time, I'd go to the movies.)

"If" clauses are introduced by ***kdybych***, ***kdybys***, etc., - formed by adding ***kdy*** in front of the conditional particles.

kdybych	*kdybychom* (colloquial *kdybysme*)
kdybys	*kdybyste*
kdyby	*kdyby*

An infinitive can sometimes be used to express an "if" clause.

Mít dost peněz, jel bych do Anglie. (If I had enough money, I'd go to England.)

6.7.3.5 The past conditional mood.

The past conditional consists of a regular conditional form (past tense participle and the particle ***bych***, ***bys***, etc.) plus the additional past tense participle of the verb to be *(být)*. Both participles have to agree in gender and number with the subject of the sentence, e.g.:

Kdybych to byl věděl, nebyl bych tam šel. If I had known it, I would not have gone there.

The function of the past conditional is exactly the same as in English, that is, it expresses an action that might have happened in the past. Unlike in English, however, the past conditional can be seen strictly in highly literary Czech or in Czech of an older date.

6.7.3.6 Purpose Clauses

This is another type of conditional construction called the subjunctive. Purpose clauses are introduced by *a-* added to the conditional particle.

abych	*abychom* (colloquial *abysme*)
abys	*abyste*
aby	*aby*

Chtěl, abych mu to řekla.	(He wanted me to tell him that.)
Řekla mu, aby něco koupil k večeři.	(She told him to buy something for supper.)
Požádali ho, aby tam šel.	(They asked him to go there.)
Šel jsem tam, abych to viděl.	(I went there in order to see it.)
Šetřil peníze, aby si mohl koupit nové auto.	(He saved money in order to buy a new car.)
Pilně trénovali, aby vyhráli mistrovství světa.	(They trained hard in order to win the world championship.)

6.8 Voice

Voice is the grammatical feature which distinguishes whether the subject of a sentence performs the action, or whether it is acted upon. A verb in a sentence performing the action is in the active voice; a verb expressing the subject being acted upon is in the passive voice.

active voice

Tuto budovu navrhl známý architekt.	(A well-known architect designed this building.)

passive voice

Tato budova byla navrhnuta známým architektem.	(This building was designed by a well-known architect.

In the passive voice sentence *budova* (building) is the subject; *architekt* (architect) is called "the agent." The agent does not have to be present in a sentence:

V Mexiku byla objevena nová ložiska nafty.	(New deposits of crude oil were discovered in Mexico.)

Most sentences in this book are in the active voice. This section will concern itself with the passive voice.

6.8.1 Formation of the Passive Voice

The passive voice is expressed by a compound construction, consisting of an auxiliary form of *být* (to be) and the passive form of the verb. Both the auxiliary verb and the passive form have endings which indicate gender and number. Both aspects may be used in passive forms.

The passive form of a verb can be derived by adding *-n* or *-t* to the past tense (*l*-form) of the verb.

Verbs of the Ist and IInd conjugations, the past tense stems of which end in *a*, add *-n* to the stem and the vowel *a* is lengthened.

infinitive		past tense		passive form	
dělat	(to do)	*dělal*	(he did)	*dělán*	(done)
psát	(to write)	*psal*	(he wrote)	*psán*	(written)
ukázat	(to show)	*ukázal*	(he showed)	*ukázán*	(shown)

Verbs of the IInd conjugation, the past tense stem of which ends in a consonant, add *-en.*

infinitive		past tense		passive form	
nést	(to carry)	*nesl*	(he carried)	*nesen*	(carried)
vést	(to lead)	*vedl*	(he led)	*veden*	(led)
vézt	(to transport)	*vezl*	(he transported)	*vezen*	(transported)

148

Verbs of the III[rd] conjugation, the past tense stem of which ends in ***i***, change this vowel to ***e***.

infinitive		past tense		passive form	
mluvit	(to speak)	*mluvil*	(he spoke)	*mluven*	(spoken)
holit	(to shave)	*holil*	(he shaved)	*holen*	(shaved)
kouřit	(to smoke)	*kouřil*	(he smoked)	*kouřen*	(smoked)

The vowel ***e*** may have a softening effect on the preceding consonant.

	infinitive	past tense	passive form
s - š	*brousit* (to sharpen)	*brousil*	*broušen*
	hlásit (to report)	*hlásil*	*hlášen*
	prosit (to beg)	*prosil*	*prošen*
st - št'	*hostit* (to offer hospitality)	*hostil*	*hoštěn*
	pustit (to let go)	*pustil*	*puštěn*
	zajistit (to secure)	*zajistil*	*zajištěn*
sl - šl	*myslet* (to think)	*myslel*	*myšlen*
z - ž	*ohrozit* (to threaten)	*ohrozil*	*ohrožen*
	kazit (to spoil)	*kazil*	*kažen*
	vozit (to haul)	*vozil*	*vožen*
zd - žd'	*opozdit* (to delay)	*opozdil*	*opožděn*
t'- c	*platit* (to pay)	*platil*	*placen*
	chytit (to catch)	*chytil*	*chycen*
	vrátit (to return)	*vrátil*	*vrácen*
d'- z	*budit* (to wake up)	*budil*	*buzen*
	hodit (to throw)	*hodil*	*hozen*
	soudit (to try)	*soudil*	*souzen*
But:	*vidět* (to see)	*viděl*	*viděn*

Note also that most the verbs to which this rule applies have the infinitive suffix ***-it***.

One-syllable verbs ending in ***-ít*** or ***-ýt*** usually form the passive participle with the help of the consonant ***-t***.

infinitive		past tense		passive form	
pít	(to drink)	*pil*	(he drank)	*pit*	(drunk)
mýt	(to wash)	*myl*	(he washed)	*myt*	(washed)

Verbs ending in the suffix ***-nout*** may either contract the suffix or, if the stem ends in consonant, they may have another variant which drops the suffix and adds an ***-en*** passive ending. The vowel ***e*** may have a softening effect on the preceding consonant.

infinitive		past tense		passive form	
táhnout	(to pull)	*táhnul*	(he pulled)	*táhnut*	(pulled)
zapomenout	(to forget)	*zapomenul*	(he forgot)	*zapomenut*	(forgotten)
táhnout	(to pull)	*táhl*	(he pulled)	*tažen*	(pulled)
tisknout	(to print)	*tiskl*	(he printed)	*tištěn*	(printed)

The following verbs form the passive participle irregularly:

infinitive		past tense		passive form	
číst	(to read)	*četl*	(he read)	*čten*	(read)
péci	(to bake)	*pekl*	(he baked)	*pečen*	(baked)
pomoci	(to help)	*pomohl*	(he helped)	*pomožen*	(helped)
říci	(to tell)	*řekl*	(he told)	*řečen*	(told)

6.8.2 Gender and Number Agreement in the Passive Voice

The auxiliary verb and the passive form must agree in gender and number.

já jsem zaměstnán	(I am employed) - masculine
já jsem zaměstnána	(I am employed) - feminine
ty jsi zaměstnán	(you are employed) - masculine
ty jsi zaměstnána	(you are employed) - feminine
on je zaměstnán	(he is employed)

150

ona je zaměstnána	(she is employed)
ono je zaměstnáno	(it is employed)
my jsme zaměstnáni	(we are employed) - masculine
my jsme zaměstnány	(we are employed) - feminine
vy jste zaměstnáni	(you are employed) - masculine
vy jste zaměstnány	(you are employed) - feminine
vy jste zaměstnán	(you are employed) - talking to a man
vy jste zaměstnána	(you are employed) - talking to a woman
oni jsou zaměstnáni	(they are employed) - masculine
ony jsou zaměstnány	(they are employed) - feminine
ona jsou zaměstnána	(they are employed) - neuter

6.8.3 The Passive Voice and Tenses

Passive voice constructions may appear in all tenses and in all moods.

já jsem zaměstnán	(I am employed) - present
já jsem byl zaměstnán	(I was employed) - past
já budu zaměstnán	(I will be employed) - future
já bych byl zaměstnán	(I would be employed) - conditional

In combination with the modal verbs, the passive voice must contain the infinitive "to be" (*být*).

Dům nemohl být prodán.	(The house could not be sold.)
Nechtěla být s ním viděna.	(She did not want to be seen with him.)
Ten telegram nesmí být uveřejněn.	(That cable must not be published.)
Ten zákon bude muset být zrušen.	(That law will have to be abolished.)

6.8.4 Passive Voice Functions

The passive voice can be formed from any transitive, perfective or imperfective verb. Perfective passive verbs can be used as adjectives modifying nouns. In these cases they also have adjectival endings.

Letadlo je sestřeleno.	(The plane is shot down.)
To je sestřelené letadlo.	(This is a shot down plane.)

In colloquial speech, the adjectival forms may be used in regular passive constructions.

Letadlo je sestřelené.	(The plane is shot down.)

When forming a passive adjective, those participles ending in ***-án*** will, however, shorten the vowel ***-á-***.

dodat (to deliver)	*dodán*	*dodaný*
udělat (to make)	*udělán*	*udělaný*
vyrvat (to tear out)	*vyrván*	*vyrvaný*

The Agent of the Passive Construction

If the agent of a passive construction is expressed, it is always in the instrumental case.

Tento nový samopal, byl vyroben Škodovými závody.	(This new submachine gun was produced by Škoda Works.)
Město bylo zničeno zemětřesením.	(The town was destroyed by an earthquake.)

6.8.5 The Passive Voice Expressed by Reflexive Verbs

In spoken Czech, especially when using transitive verbs, the compound construction (auxilliary verb plus participle) is usually replaced by a simple reflexive construction.

Tyto knihy jsou často vydávány.	(These books are frequently published.)
Tyto knihy se často vydávají.	
Zkoušky byly několikrát opakovány.	(The exams were repeated several times.)
Zkoušky se několikrát opakovaly.	

In these constructions the subject is usually an inanimate object (car, books, exams). If the subject is a person, passivity is lost.

Petr se myje.	(Peter is washing [himself].)
Technici se navzájem kontrolují.	(Technicians check each other.)
Prohlížela se v zrcadle.	(She studied herself in the mirror.)

Some reflexive constructions can be impersonal. In that case passivity is preserved.

Ničím se zde nehýbalo.	(Nothing here was touched.)
Dosáhlo se velkých úspěchů.	(Big successes were attained).
Psalo se o tom v novinách.	(It was written about in the paper.)

When verbs of motion become reflexive, they express a general meaning (one does or could do something).

Do Londýna se letělo přes Paříž.	One flew (could fly) to London over (via) Paris.
Šlo se tam pěšky.	One walked (could walk) there.
Jezdilo se tam metrem.	One went (could go) there by metro.

6.9 Verbal Nouns and Adjectives

Nouns and adjectives may be derived from verb forms. Noun forms derived from adjectives are all neuter in gender and are declined following the pattern of the word *nádraží*. (See Neuter Nouns, Singular and Plural.) Adjectival forms derived from verbs are declined like soft or hard adjectives.

6.9.1 Formation of Verbal Nouns

Verbal nouns can be derived by adding the vowel *í* to masculine, passive verb forms.

psán	(written)	-	*psaní*	(writing)
řízen	(driven)	-	*řízení*	(driving)
střílen	(shot)	-	*střílení*	(shooting)

Note , however, the fluctuation of the vowel length in those verbs whose passive participle ends in *-án*.

twosyllable		threesylable	
brát (to take)	*brani*	*sebrat* (to pickup)	*sebrání*
hnát (to chase)	*hnani*	*vyhnat* (chase out)	*vyhnání*
řvát (to roar, [imp.])	*řvaní*	*zařvat* (to roar, [perf.]]	*zařvání*

Special attention should be paid when choosing the verbal noun. It strongly emphasizes an action and, in the case that another regular noun is available, the use of the verbal noun may be inappropriate.

řvaní (roaring)	*řev* (roar)
pochodování (marching)	*pochod* (march)
kreslení (drawing)	*kresba* (drawing)

6.9.2 Formation of Verbal Adjectives

Adjectives can be formed from the imperfective or perfective aspect of most verbs. These adjectives can express either active or passive voice. Passive voice adjectives have been discussed in Section 6.8.4. Active voice adjectives are discussed below.

Active voice adjectives can be formed from the 3rd person plural of imperfective verbs by adding the suffix ***-cí***.

přijímat	(to receive)		
oni přijímají	(they receive)	-	*přijímající* (receiving)
smát se	(to laugh)		
oni se smějí	(they laugh)	-	*smějící se* (laughing)

Note that the reflexive particles ***se*** or ***si*** must be kept.

Third conjugation verbs have both a long and short variant in the 3rd person, plural. Adjectives are usually formed from the short variant.

myslet	(to think)		
oni myslí	(they think)	- *myslící*	(thinking)
oni myslejí	(long variant)		

Sometimes verbal adjectives can be formed also from the infinitive (with additional changes in the stem). Their meaning describes the purpose for which the following noun is used and not the verbal action. Only a limited number of these adjectives appear frequently.

holicí se muž	(shaving man)	*holicí strojek*	(shaver)
spící dítě	(sleeping child)	*spací pytel*	(sleeping bag)
píšící sekretářka	(writing secretary)	*psací stůl*	(writing desk)

6.9.3 Irregular verbs.

The following is a list of most frequently occurring verbs with some degree of irregularity:

infinitive		present	past	passive	imperative
číst	to read	*čtu, čteš*	*četl*	*čten*	*čti*
chvět	to tremble	*chvěju, -eš*	*chvěl*	*chvěn*	*chvěj*
jet	to go (by vehicle)	*jedu, jedeš*	*jel*	*jet*	*jed'*
jít	to go (on foot)	*jdu, jdeš*	*šel*	---	*jdi*
jíst	to eat	*jím, jíš*	*jedl*	*jeden*	*jez*
krást	to steal	*kradu,-eš*	*kradl*	*kraden*	*krad'*
ukrást	to steal (perf.)	*ukradnu*	*ukradl*	*ukraden*	*ukradni*
mást	to confuse	*matu, -eš*	*mátl*	*maten*	*mat'*
moci	to be able to	*můžu (mohu), můžeš*	*mohl*	*(po)možen*	*(po)moz*
nalézt	to find	*naleznu, -eš*	*nalezl*	*nalezen*	*nalezni*
péci	to bake	*peču, -eš*	*pekl*	*pečen*	*peč*
říci	to say	*řeknu, -eš*	*řekl*	*řečen*	*řekni*
smět	to be allowed to	*smím, -íš*	*směl*	---	---
spět	to head for	*spěju, -eš*	*spěl*	*spět*	*spěj*
téci	to flow	*teču, -eš*	*tekl*	*tečen*	*teč*
tlouci	to beat	*tluču,-eš*	*tloukl*	*tlučen*	*tluč*
třást	to shake	*třesu, -eš*	*třásl*	*třesen*	*třes*
vléci	to haul	*vleču,-eš*	*vlekl*	*vlečen*	*vleč*
začít	to start	*začnu, -eš*	*začal*	*začnut*	*začni*
vyjmout	to take out	*vyjmu, -eš*	*vyjmul/vyňal*	*vyjmut*	*vyjmi*
	but:	*pojal*			
vypnout	to turn off	*vypnu, -eš*	*vypnul*	*vypnut*	*vypni*
žít	to live	*žiju, -eš*	*žil*	*žit*	*žij*
žít	to cut	*žnu, -eš*	*žal*	*žnut*	*žni*
vědět	to know	*vím, -íš*	*věděl*	---	*věz*
vidět	to see	*vidím, -íš*	*viděl*	*viděn*	*viz*
dít se	to happen	*děju se, -eš se*	*děl se*	*děn*	*děj se*
chtít	to want	*chci -eš*	*chtěl*	*chtěn*	*chtěj*
	but:	*oni chtějí*			

lít	to pour	*leju, -eš*	*lil*	*lit*	*lej/lij*
mít	to have	*mám, máš*	*měl*	---	*měj*
mlít	to grind	*melu, -eš*	*mlel*	*mlet*	*mel*
mřít	to die	*mřu, -eš*	*mřel*		*mři*
přít se	to argue	*přu se, -eš se*	*přel*	*přen*	*při se*
sít	to sow	*seju, -eš*	*sel*	*set*	*sej*
vřít	to boil	*vřu, -eš*	*vřel*	*vřen*	*vři*
vzít	to take	*vezmu, -eš*	*vzal*	*vzat*	*vezmi*
bát se	to fear	*bojím se ,-íš se*	*bál se*	---	*boj se*
dát	to give	*dám, -áš*	*dal*	*dán*	*dej*
hnát	to drive (cattle)	*ženu, -eš*	*hnal*	*hnán*	*žeň*
hrát	to play	*hraju -eš*	*hrál*	*hrán*	*hrej*
hřát	to warm	*hřeju, -eš*	*hřál*	*hřán*	*hřej*
kázat	to preach	*kážu, -eš*	*kázal*	*kázán*	*kázej*
lhát	to lie	*lžu, -eš*	*lhal*	*lhán*	*lži*
mazat	to spread	*mažu, -eš*	*mazal*	*mazán*	*maž*
plakat	to cry	*pláču, -eš*	*plakal*	*plakán*	*plakej*
přát	to wish	*přeju, -eš*	*přál*	*přán*	*přej*
psát	to write	*píšu, -eš*	*psal*	*psán*	*piš*
poslat	to send	*pošlu, -eš*	*poslal*	*poslán*	*pošli*
smát se	to laugh	*směju se, -eš se*	*smál se*	---	*směj se*
spát	to sleep	*spím, -íš*	*spal*	*uspán*	*spi*
stát	to stand	*stojím, -íš*	*stál*	---	*stůj*
stát se	to become	*stanu se, -eš se*	*stal se*	---	*staň se*
stonat	to be sick	*stůňu, -eš*	*stonal*	---	*stonej*
tázat se	to ask	*tážu se, -eš se*	*tázal se*	*tázán*	*tázej se/taž se*
vát	to blow	*vanu, -eš*	*vál*	*vát*	*věj*
vázat	to bind	*vážu, -eš*	*vázal*	*vázán*	*važ*

Some passive constructions of these verbs appear in combinations with prefixes mostly.

7. ADVERBS

Adverbs modify verbs, describing the place, time and manner in which the action takes place.

7.1 Adverbs of Place

Adverbs of place give information whether the action takes place in a certain location or whether it takes place while moving to or from a location. These adverbs are elicited by the questions ***Kde***? (Where? [location]), ***Kam?*** (Where? [in what direction]), ***Odkud?*** (From where?).

Kde je pošta?	(Where is the post office?)
Pošta je napravo.	(The post office is on the right.)
Kde pracuje?	(Where does he work?)
Pracuje doma.	(He works at home.)
Kam jdeš?	(Where are you going?)
Jdu ven.	(I'm going outside.)
Jdu dolů.	(I'm going down.)
Odkud jel ten vůz?	(Where was the car coming from?)
Přijel zprava.	(It came from the right.)
Přijel shora.	(It came from the top [of the hill].)

kde?	*kam?*	*odkud?*
doma (at home)	*domů* (home)	*z domova* (from home)
tady= zde (tadyhle) (here)	*sem (semhle)* (here)	*odtud* (from here)
tam (támhle) (there)	*tam (támhle)* there	*odtamtud* (from there)
nalevo (on the left)	*nalevo, doleva* (to the left)	*zleva, odleva* (from the left)
napravo (on the right)	*napravo, doprava* (to the right)	*zprava, odprava* (from the right)
vedle (on the side, next door, next to)	*vedle* (aside, next door, next to)	*odvedle* (from the side, from next door)
naproti (opposite across from)	*naproti* (opposite, across from)	*odnaproti* (from the opposite side, from across)
venku (outside)	*ven* (outside)	*zvenku, zvenčí* (from outside)
vevnitř, uvnitř (inside)	*dovnitř* (inside)	*zevnitř* (from inside)
uprostřed (in the middle)	*dopostřed (-ka)* (to the middle)	*zprostřed (-ka)* (from the middle)
nahoře (on top, upstairs, up)	*nahoru* (to the top, upstairs, up)	*shora* (from the top, from upstairs)
dole (down, downstairs, at the bottom)	*dolů* (down, downstairs, to the bottom)	*zdola* (from below)
vpředu (in front)	*dopředu* (to the front)	*z (-e) předu* (from the front)
vzadu (in the back, behind)	*dozadu* (to the back)	*zezadu* (from the back)
někde (somewhere)	*někam* (somewhere)	*odněkud* (from somewhere)

7.2 Adverbs of Time

Adverbs of time express when the action takes place. These adverbs are elicited by the question ***Kdy?*** (When?).

Včera jsem mluvil s jeho ženou.	(I spoke to his wife yesterday.)
Vojenské cvičení skončí zítra.	(The military exercises will end tomorrow.)

List of the Most Frequent Adverbs of Time

dnes	(today)
ráno	(in the morning)
večer	(in the evening)
dopoledne	(before noon)
v poledne	(at noon)
odpoledne	(in the afternoon)
letos	(this year)
vloni	(last year)
napřesrok	(next year)
brzy	(soon)
pozdě	(late)
včas	(on time)

The adverbs ***ještě (ne), už (ne)*** require special attention. Notice how they function:

Je osm hodin. Třída je ještě prázdná. (It is eight o'clock. The class is still empty.)

Třída je už prázdná.	The class is already empty.
Třída ještě není plná.	The class is not yet full.
Třída už není plná.	The class is no longer full.

In a positive statement, ***ještě*** means still, ***už*** means already. In a negative statement, ***ještě*** means not yet, ***už*** means no longer.

7.3 Adverbs of Manner

This group of adverbs describes the manner in which the action takes place. They are elicited by the question ***Jak***? (How?).

Věra studuje velmi dobře. (Vera studies very well.)
Petr píše na stroji rychle. (Peter types fast.)

There are numerous adverbs of this type, because they can be derived from many adjectives.

adjective	adverb
pomalý (slow)	*pomalu* (slowly)
chytrý (clever)	*chytře* (cleverly)
šikovný (skillful)	*šikovně* (skillfully)

7.3.1 Formation of the Adverbs of Manner

Adverbs which are derived from adjectives usually end in **-e**, **-ě**, or **-o**. A small group ends in **-cky** or **-sky.**

In deriving adverbs from adjectives, the **e**, **ě** ending causes a sound change.

h ⟩ **z**	*drahý* (expensive)	-	*draze* (expensively)
ch ⟩ **š**	*hluchý* (deaf)	-	*hluše* (deafly)
k ⟩ **c**	*vysoký* (high)	-	*vysoce* (highly)
r ⟩ **ř**	*dobrý* (good)	-	*dobře* (well)
d ⟩ **d'**	*chudý* (poor)	-	*chudě* (poorly)
t ⟩ **ť**	*bohatý* (rich)	-	*bohatě* (richly)
n ⟩ **ň**	*rovný* (straight, even)	-	*rovně* (straight, evenly)

Some adverbs ending in **o** may also have variant forms which end in **-e** or **-ě**.

Note the following:

hluboko - *Lod' se potopila velmi hluboko.* (The ship sank very deep.)
hluboce - *Všichni byli hluboce dojati.* (All of them were deeply touched.)

vysoko - *Letadlo letělo vysoko.* (An airplane was flying high.)
vysoce - *Ten člověk byl vysoce motivován.* (That man was highly motivated.)

Note also the use of the **o**- form adverbs in construction with the verb *být* (to be).

Ona vypadá smutně.
(She looks sad.)

Když otec odjel, bylo doma smutno.
(When Father left, is was sad at home.)

Karel se vesele smál.
(Charles laughed merrily.)

V hospodě u Zvonu bylo veselo.
(Literally, "It was merry at the Zvon inn.")
Idiomatically, "We had a good time at the Zvon inn.")

Uvítal ho chladně.
(He welcomed him cooly).

Včera bylo chladno.
(It was cold yesterday).

Díval se na něho zamračeně.
(He was looking at him with frown).

Zítra má být zamračeno.
(It supposed to be cloudy tomorrow).

Aféra skončila ošklivě.
(The affair ended ugly).

Dnes je venku ošklivo.
(It is ugly outside today.)

Dívala se na něho teple.
(She looked at him warmly).

Venku je teplo.
(It is warm outside.)

A small group of adverbs ends in ***-cky*** or ***-sky***. These are for the most part derived from adjectives denoting nationalities:

český (Czech) - *česky* (in [a] Czech way)
německý (German) - *německy* (in [a] German way)

or from adjectives derived from foreign words:

praktický (practical) - *prakticky* (practically)
logický (logical) - *logicky* (logically)

A few other adverbs may have the ***-cky*** or ***-sky*** endings:

lidský (human) - *lidsky* (in a human way)
umělecký (artistic) - *umělecky* (in an artistic way)

Note in the above examples that the only difference between the adjectives and adverbs is the length of the final vowel.

7.3.2 Comparison of Adverbs

Most adverbs of manner which have been derived from adjectives can have degrees of comparison. (An example of degrees of comparison in English: positive degree, "fast"; comparative degree, "faster"; superlative degree, "fastest"). Regular comparative degree is formed by adding the suffix ***-eji***, (***-ěji***) to the positive degree and the superlative degree is formed by adding the prefix ***nej-*** to the comparative degree.

adjective	adverb	comparative degree	superlative degree
levný (cheap)	*levně*	*levněji*	*nejlevněji*
rychlý (fast)	*rychle*	*rychleji*	*nejrychleji*

Adverbial stems ending in **-c** will undergo a change.

prudce (rapidly)	*prudčeji*
měkce (softly)	*měkčeji*
řídce (rarely)	*řidčeji*
krátce (shortly)	*kratčeji*

Note also shortening of the stem vowel.

Following is a list of adverbs which form the comparative degree in an irregular way. (Some adverbs must be translated with adjectives):

Positive Degree	Comparative Degree	Superlative Degree
dobře (well)	*lépe*	*nejlépe*
špatně, zle (bad)	*hůře*	*nejhůře*
mnoho (much)	*více*	*nejvíce*
málo (little)	*méně*	*nejméně*
dlouho (long)	*déle*	*nejdéle*
daleko (far)	*dále*	*nejdále*
blízko (near)	*blíže*	*nejblíže*
vysoko (high)	*výše*	*nejvýše*
nízko (low)	*níže*	*nejníže*
snadno (easily)	*snáze*	*nejsnáze*
těžko (with curiosity)	*tíže*	*nejtíže*
těžce (with difficulty)		
široko (wide)	*šíře*	*nejšíře*
široce (widely)		
draho (expensive)	*dráže*	*nejdráže*
draze (expensively)		
brzo (soon)	*dříve*	*nejdříve*
hluboko (deep)	*hlouběji*	*nejhlouběji*
hluboce (deeply)		
úzko (narrow)	*úžeji*	*nejúžeji*
úzce (narrowly)		
zřídka (seldom)	*řidčeji*	*nejřidčeji*
uboze (poorely)	*uboženji*	*nejuboženji*

Adverbs ending in ***-cky*** will use the form ***-čtěji*** in the comparative degree; those ending in ***-sky***, will use the ***-štěji*** form.

prakticky - *praktičtěji*
lidsky - *lidštěji*

183

7.4 Modal Adverbs

This group of adverbs functions in constructions with the verb ***být*** (to be). They express such ideas as possibility, certainty or doubt.

*To je **určitě** pravda.*	(That's certainly true.)
*To **jistě** není pravda.*	(That's certainly not true.)
***Možná**, že je to pravda.*	(It may be true.)
*To je **asi** pravda.*	(That's probably true.)
*To **snad** není pravda.*	(Perhaps it isn't true.)

7.5 Sentence Structures Using Adverbs

Notice how the positive, comparative, and superlative degree adverbs function in the structures following:

tak- jako is used with the positive degree.

Jan mluví tak dobře německy jako Pavel.

(John speaks German as well as Paul.)

než is used with the comparative degree.

Helena plave rychleji než Eva.

(Helen swims faster than Eva.)

o plus the accusative is used with the comparative degree.

Skončil jsem tu práci o dva dny dříve.

(I finished that work two days early.)

mnohem is used with the comparative degree.

Letos stojí benzín mnohem více.

(Gas costs much more this year.)

čím - tím is used with the comparative.

Čím více budeš šetřit, tím dříve budeš mít na cestu do zahraničí.

(The more you'll save, the sooner you'll have money for your trip abroad.)

z (e) is used with the superlative degree.

Vypadá nejzkušeněji ze všech dělníků v továrně.

(He appears to be the most experienced worker in the factory.)

sebe is added to the superlative degree.

At' pracuje seberychleji, tu práci dnes nedokončí.

(No matter how fast he works, he won't be able to finish the work today.)

8. PREPOSITIONS

This chapter is a reference section on Czech prepositions. All the prepositions are listed in alphabetical order. Particular attention should be given to case agreement required with the prepositions. In some instances, a preposition may require agreement in more than one case, depending on the meaning.

Preposition	Case Agreement required	English Equivalent	Examples
během	GENITIVE	during, in the course of	*Pracovali jsme na tom během minulého roku.* (We worked on it during the last year.)
bez, beze	GENITIVE	without	*Nejezdi bez rezervy.* (Don't drive without a spare tire.)
blizko	GENITIVE	near, next to	*Zastávka je blizko nádraží.* (The stop is near the station.)
díky, dík	DATIVE	thanks to	*Díky Petrovi jsme se tam dostali včas.* (Thanks to Peter, we got there in time.)
do	GENITIVE	to, into	*Zítra jedu do Olomouce.* (I'll go to Olomouc tomorrow.)
			Dal jsi to do zásuvky? (Did you put it in the drawer?)
		till	*Pracovali jsme (až) do večera.* (We worked till evening.)
		within	*Do dvou let zde postavíme dálnici.* (We will build here a highway within two years.
		by	*Naučte se to do zítřka.* (Learn it by tomorrow.)
doprostřed	GENITIVE	in the middle (with motion)	*Stůl jsme dali doprostřed místnoti.* (We put the table in the middle of the room.)
dovnitř	GENITIVE	inside (with motion)	*Hodil to dovnitř krabice.* (He threw it inside of the box.)

Preposition	Case agreement required	English equivalent	Examples
jménem	GENITIVE	on behalf	*Přivítal ho jménem celé obce.* (He welcomed him on behalf of the whole community.)
k, ke, ku	DATIVE	to, toward, in the direction of	*Večer půjdu k Věře.* (Tonight I'll go to Vera's place.) *Jdeme k divadlu.* (We are going towards the theater.) *Vlak jel ku Praze.* (The train went in the direction of Prague.)
		for	*Co máme k večeři?* (What do we have for dinner?)
kolem	GENITIVE	round, around	*Kolem velvyslanectví je mnoho stromů.* (There are many trees around the embassy.)
		past, by	*Jel jsem kolem obchodního domu.* (I went past the department store.)
		about, approximately	*Přijďte kolem páté hodiny.* (Be here around five o'clock.)
		except for	*Byl tam každý kromě Karla.* (Everyone was there except for Charles.)
kromě	GENITIVE	besides, in addition to	*Kromě třetí lekce si také prostudujte čtvrtou.* (In addition to the 3rd lesson, also study the 4th.)

Preposition	Case agreement required	English equivalent	Examples
kvůli	DATIVE	because of, on account of	*Udělal to kvůli své ženě.* (He did it because of his wife.)
mezi	ACCUSATIVE (motion)	between	*Zaparkuj mezi ta dvě auta.* (Park between the two cars.)
	INSTRUMENTAL (location)		*Parkoval jsem mezi dvěma cizími vozy.* (I parked between the two foreign cars.)
	ACCUSATIVE (motion)	to be part of	*Čeština patří mezi slovanské jazyky.* (Czech belongs among Slavic languages.)
	INSTRUMENTAL (location)	among	*Nikdy mezi námi nebyla neshoda.* (There was never a disagreement among us.)
mimo	GENITIVE	besides, in addition to	*Mimo konsula jsme se také setkali s velvyslancem.* (In addition to the consul, we also met the ambassador.)
	GENITIVE	except	*Dal mu všechny knihy mimo jedné.* (He gave him all the books except one.)
	ACCUSATIVE	out of, away from	*Je mimo město.* (He is out of town.)
místo		instead of	*Šel tam místo ní.* (He went there instead of her.)
na	ACCUSATIVE (motion)	on (surface)	*Loď byla spuštěna na vodu.* (The ship was launched.)
			Dal jsem to na stůl. (I put it on the table.)
na	LOCATIVE (location)	on (on top of something)	*Na koberci byla skvrna.* (There was a spot on the carpet.)
		at (office, institution)	*Byl jsem na poště, na universitě a na ministerstvu.* (I was at the post office, university, and at the ministry.)

Preposition	Case Agreement	English Equivalent	Examples
na	ACCUSATIVE (motion)	to	*Odpolene pojedu na velvyslanectví.* (In the afternoon I'll go to the Embassy.)
		(an event)	*Ráno půjdu na koncert a večer na operu.* (In the morning I'll go to a concert and in the evening to an opera.)
			Pojď na procházku. (Come with me for a walk.)
		for (purpose)	*Zde jsou peníze na nový kabát.* (Here is some money for a new coat.)
		for how long	*Pojedu do Německa asi na týden.* (I'll go to Germany for about a week.)
		to play on something	*Růžena hraje dobře na piano.* (Rose plays the piano well.)
	ACCUSATIVE	approximately	*Bylo tam na sto lidí.* (There was approximately hundred people there.)
nad, nade	ACCUSATIVE (motion)	over, above	*Obraz jsem pověsil nad krb.* (I hung the picture above the fireplace.)
	INSTRUMENTAL (location)		*Obraz visí nad krbem.* (The picture hangs above the fireplace.)
naproti	DATIVE	opposite, across from	*Nová cestovní kancelář je naproti bance.* (There's a new travel bureau opposite the bank.)
napříč	INSTRUMENTAL	across	*Napříč světadílem.* (Across a continent.)
	GENITIVE		*Autobus ležel napříč cesty.* (The bus was lying across the road.)
navzdor (y)	DATIVE	in spite of (with nouns expressing care or interest)	*Šel tam navzdory mému varování.* (He went there in spite of my warning.)

Preposition	Case Agreement	English Equivalent	Examples
o	ACCUSATIVE	about (with) verbs expressing thinking, writing, etc.)	*Zajímá se o moderní architekturu.* (She is interested in modern architecture.)
		comparison	*Bratr je o tři roky starší.* (My brother is three years older.)
	LOCATIVE	about (providing information	*Mluvila o své cestě do Polska.* (She talked about her trip to Poland.)
		at, during (expressing time)	*Viděl jsem ho o vánocích.* (I saw him during Christmas.)
		special characteristic	*Dům o deseti patrech.* (Nine story building.)
od	GENITIVE	away from	*Odešla od nás večer.* (She left us in the evening.)
		from, since	*Studuji na universitě od září.* (I've been studying at the university since September.)
		by (author)	*Ta opera je od Bedřicha Smetany.* (That opera was composed by Bedrich Smetana.)
ohledně	GENITIVE	with regard to	*Přišel ohledně té smlouvy.* (He came with regard to that contract.)
okolo		(See: *kolem*)	*Okolo (kolem) domu je zahrada.* (There is a garden around the house.)
po	LOCATIVE	after	*Po večeři půjdeme do kina.* (We'll go to the movies after supper.)
		on, along	*Do Mnichova můžete jet po dálnici číslo 354.* (You can go to Munich on Route No. 354.)
		on (surface)	*Myš běžela po podlaze.* (A mouse was running on the floor.)

Preposition	Case Agreement	English Equivalent	Examples
po	LOCATIVE	at (distribution)	*Kilo masa je po čtyřiceti korunách.* (A kilo of meat [sells] at 40 crowns.)
	ACCUSATIVE	(up) to	*Znám Německo od moře až po Alpy.* (I know Germany from the sea up to the Alps.)
		during	*Po celý rok jsme nikam nejeli.* (We did not go anywhere all year long.)
pod	ACCUSATIVE (motion)	under, below	*Tu krabice jsme dali pod stůl.* (We put that box under the table.)
	INSTRUMENTAL (location)		*Ta krabice je pod stolem.* (The box is under the table.)
			Teplota je pod nulou. (The temperature is below zero.)
podél	GENITIVE	along	*Podél řeky byl krásný park.* (There was a beautiful park along the river.)
podle	GENITIVE	according to, by	*Podle mapy bychom měli být blízko města.* (According to the map, we should be near the town.) *Znám ho jen podle vidění.* (I know him just by sight [his appearance].)
		along	*Cesta vedla podle lesa.* (The road went along a forest.)
pomocí		with (the help of)	*Viry se objevují pomocí elektronického mikroskopu.* (Viruses were discovered with the help of the electronic miscrocope.)
pro	ACCUSATIVE	for (benefit, purpose, to get)	*Mám pro něho dobrou zprávu.* (I have good news for him.) *Musíme jít pro lékaře.* (We have to get a doctor.)
pro	ACCUSATIVE	because of	*Pro nedostatek materiálu jsme museli zastavit práci.* (We had to stop work because of a lack of materials.)

Preposition	Case Agreement	English Equivalent	Examples
proti	DATIVE	against	*Nic proti tomu nemáme.* (We don't have anything against it.)
		opposite	*Seděli jsme proti sobě.* (We were sitting opposite each other.)
		compared with	*Proti Československu je Albánie malá země.* (Compared with Czechoslovakia, Albania is a small country.)
před	ACCUSATIVE (motion)	in front of, before	*Matka šla před dům.* (Mother went in front of the house.)
	INSTRUMENTAL (location)		*Autobus stál před školou.* (The bus was standing in front of the school.)
			Byl jsem tam před rokem. (I was there a year ago.)
	INSTRUMENTAL	before, ago	*Byl v USA před druhou světovou válkou.* (He was in the U.S.A. before WW II.)
přes, přese	ACCUSATIVE	in spite of, contrary to	*Udělal to přes zákaz.* (He did it in spite of the prohibition.)
		across, in access of	*Přes kanál la Manche jsme jeli dvě hodiny.* (We crossed the English Channel in two hours.)
			Do Žiliny můžete jet přes Nitru. (You can go to Zilina by way of Nitra.)
			Cesta vlakem trvala přes dvě hodiny. (The trip by train took longer than two hours.)
			V Praze bylo vloni přes půl miliónu zahraničních turistů. (There were more than half a million foreign tourists in Prague last year.)

Preposition	Case Agreement	English Equivalent	Examples
přes	ACCUSATIVE	during	*Přes den pracuje v hotelu.* (During the day he works in a hotel.)
při	LOCATIVE	close to	*Letadlo letělo při zemi.* (The airplane flew close to the ground.)
		part of	*Škola při ministerstvu zahraničí.* (School of the Department of Foreign Affairs.)
při	LOCATIVE	during, while doing something else	*Při snídani četl noviny.* (During breakfast he read newspapers.)
s, se	INSTRUMENTAL	with, together	*Šel jsem s ním do kina.* (I went to the movies with him.)
		containing	*Konserva s masem byla v ledničce.* (The canned meat was in the refrigerator.)
skrz	ACCUSATIVE	through	*Skrz sklo nebylo vidět, protože bylo špinavé.* (You couldn't see through the glass because it was dirty.)
u	GENITIVE	at, by	*Seděl jsem u okna.* (I was sitting at the window.)
		by, at (names of taverns)	*Hospoda U dvou koček.* (Two Cats Tavern)
		part of other item	*Knoflík u košile.* (Shirt button)
			Nárazník u auta. (Car bumper)
uprostřed	GENITIVE	in the middle (location)	*Stůl je uprostřed místnosti.* (The table was in the middle of the room.)
uvnitř	GENITIVE	in (inside)	*Uvnitř auta bylo horko.* (It was hot in the car.)

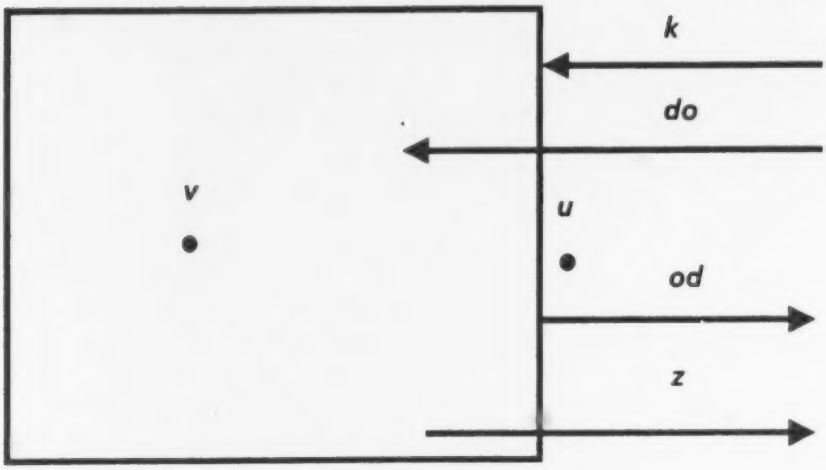
172

Preposition	Case Agreement	English Equivalent	Examples
v, ve	LOCATIVE	in, at	*Pracuji v továrně.* (I work in a factory.) *Spali jsme v hotelu.* (We slept at a hotel.) *Narodil se v lednu.* (He was born in January.)
	ACCUSATIVE	on, at (time)	*V sobotu nepracuje.* (He doesn't work on Saturday.) *V jednu jsme doma.* (At one o'clock we are at home.)
včetně	GENITIVE	including	*Všichni přijeli autem, včetně jeho sekretářky.* (Everybody came by car, including his secretary.)
vedle	GENITIVE	next to	*Smetanovo divadlo je vedle Hlavního nádraží.* (The Smetana Theater is next to the Main Station.)
vůči	DATIVE	towards	*Jak se choval vůči tobě?* (How did he behave towards you?)
z, ze	GENITIVE	from (place)	*Jsem z Brna.* (I am from Brno.)
		made of	*Ty kalhoty jsou z vlny.* (Those pants are made of wool.)
(s,se)		motion from top down)	*Spadla se stromu.* (She fell from a tree.)
za	ACCUSATIVE	in (time)	*Jednou za týden chodím na koncert.* (I go to a concert once a week.)
		in, after	*Za měsíc pojedeme na dovolenou.* (In a month we will go on vacation.)

Preposition	Case Agreement	English Equivalent	Examples
za	ACUSATIVE	for, in exchange	*Za nábytek jsme zaplatili 20 000 Kčs.* (We paid 20,000 crowns for the furniture.)
		during, within	*Přečtu tu knihu za den.* (I'll finish that book within a day.)
	ACCUSATIVE (motion)	behind	*Sedli jsme si za stůl.* (We sat down behind the table.)
	INSTRUMENTAL (location)		*Za domem jsme měli velkou zahradu.* (We had a big garden behind our house.)
vzdor	DATIVE	see: navzdory	
zpod	GENITIVE	from below	*Zpod mostu vyjel autobus.* (The bus came from below the bridge.)
zpoza	GENITIVE	from behind	*Vyšel zpoza stromu.* (He came out from behind a tree.)

A number of phrases function like prepositions, *nehledě na* (regardless of), *vzhledem k* (with regard to) etc. The prepositions ***na*** and ***k*** determine the case.

The prepositions ***v***, ***u*** (at, in), ***do***, ***k*** (to) and ***od***, ***z*** (from) may cause problems for speakers of English because there are two Czech prepositions for each English equivalent. The following diagram may help in understanding usage:



We thus either talk about the space inside (**v**) or nearby (**u**). We can divide the above listed prepositions into two groups: **v - z - do** and **u - od - k**. When a preposition from one group is used in a given situation then only the other two prepositions from the same group can be used when talking about the same object. In other words, we cannot have a situation in which somebody uses **u** and in the same context uses **do**.

Correct:

A: *Byli jsem v kině.*
B: *Do kterého kina jste šli?*

Incorrect:

A: *Budeme bydlet v hotelu.*
B: *Ke kterému hotelu chcete, abych vám zatelefonoval?*

Preposition **na** in connection with certain nouns functions as **v** or **do**. The distinction is expressed by a case change. (See Chapter 8 Prepositions.)

The prepositions **u** (at), **k** (to) and **od** (from) are used in relation to animate nouns.

Byl jsem u bratra.	(I was at [my] brothers's [place].)
Jdu k Petrovi.	(I am going to Peter's [place].)
Jdu od řezníka.	(I am coming from the butcher's.)

Expansion of prepositions

Prepositions ***k, s, v, z*** are normally pronounced together with the following word:

Bydlí [vBratislavě].	(He lives in Bratislava.)
Šel tam [sPavlem].	(He went there with Paul.)
Jeli jsme [ktetě].	(We went to see our aunt.)

When followed by a similar consonant or a cluster of consonants that would make the pronunciation difficult, the prepositions will expand.

Mluvila se sestrou.	(She spoke to her sister.)
Bydlel ve Vysočanech.	(He lived in Vysočany.)
Ke všem dopisům připiš datum.	(Add the date to all letters.)

Preposition ***k*** may, in special phrases, add the vowel ***u***.

Vlak se blížil ku Praze.	(The train was nearing Prague.)
Ku příkladu.	(For example.)
Ku podivu.	(Wonder of wonders.)

Prepositions ***bez, nad, od, pod, před, přes*** and ***skrz*** will also expand if the following word starts with the same consonant the preposition ends in and in combination with declined forms of the personal pronoun ***já***.

Položil to pode dveře.	(He put it under the door.)
Odešla beze slova.	(She left without saying a word.)
Byl tu přede mnou.	(He was here before me.)

9. INTERJECTIONS

9.1 General Description.

Interjections are words expressing feeling, will or mood of the speaker or sounds accompanying various verbs. These words do not decline.

9.2 Onomatopoeic Function.

To this group belong interjections depicting sounds produced by various inanimate objects as well as by animals and people.

bác	noises produced by hitting
břink	like English: bang, thud
bouch	
řach	
křáp	
cink	
šplouch	sound of poured water
šup	fast movement
chacha	people laughing
hehe	
hihihi	
chrrrr	people snoring
ehm	clearing the throat
tralala	singing
kykyryký	sound of a rooster
mňau	miaowing cat
haf haf	barking dog
vrrrrr	growling dog
bé bé	sound of a sheep
bů bů	sound of a cow
pip pip	sound of a bird

9.3 Interjections Expressing a Request, Demand or Animal Commands.

na (familiar) *nate* (pl. form)	when offering something to someone
vid' (familiar) *vid'te* (plural)	when seeking confirmation of one's own statement
heled' (familiar) *heled'te* (polite)	drawing one's attention
pst	asking for quiet
pr	stopping a horse
vijé	telling a horse to move
čehý	telling a horse to move to the left
hot	telling a horse to move to the right
kšc	chasing a cat or some other small animal away

9.4 Some Interjections Have Their Origin in a Specific Conjugated Form of a Noun.

čerta starýho	hell no
k d'asu	what the hell
panečku	yap
hrome	damn
běda	alas
hrůza	horror

10. NOTES ON SYNTAX

Since most grammatical functions in a sentence are clearly marked by endings, Czech allows more flexibility in word order than does English. Word order in simple sentences can be learned by examining the various models contained in this grammar. This chapter concerns itself with the function of complex sentences and conjunctions which introduce clauses. The structure of several other types of sentences is also mentioned.

10. 1 Complex Sentences and Conjunctions

The following is a list of the most frequently used conjunctions. Those which have an asterisk are structurally part of the clause they introduce. As such they cause a change in the word order if an unaccented form of ***být*** or reflexive particles ***se***, ***si*** are present. In this category belong predominantly subordinate conjuctions.

Neměl jsem čas. (I didn't have time.)

Word order is changed when this becomes a clause introduced by *protože*:

Nemluvil jsem s ním, protože jsem neměl čas. (I didn't speak to him, because I didn't have the time.)

However if ***ale***, which is not part of the clause structure, introduces the clause, no change in word order takes place.

Chtěl jsem tam jít, ale neměl jsem čas. (I wanted to go there, but didn't have time.)

Conjuction	English Equivalent	Examples
a	and	*Každý den chodí do práce a večer do školy.* (He goes to work every day and goes to school in the evening.)
aby *	in order to (See: Conditional Forms, Purpose Clauses.)	*Pracoval přes čas, aby si mohl koupit nové auto.* (He worked over time in order to buy a new car.)
ačkoli (v) *	though, although	*Nikdy neměl peníze, ačkoliv dost vydělával.* (He never had money, though he earned enough.)

Conjuction	English Equivalent	Examples
ale	but	*Ten pokoj je malý, ale světlý.* (That room is small but bright.
ani - ani *	either - or neither - nor	*Nebyl ještě ani v Praze, ani v Brně.)* (He's been neither in Prague nor in Brno yet.)
aniž *	without + -ing	*Odjeli, aniž by se s někým rozloučili.* (They left without saying good-bye to anyone.)
ať *		*Řekl jsem mu, ať spěchá .* (I told him to hurry up.)
ať * - *nebo* *	whether - or	*Musíš to udělat,ať chceš nebo nechceš.* (You have to do it, whether you want to or not.)
avšak	but (however)	*Rakousko má rozvinutý průmysl, avšak nemá dost surovin.* (Austria has a developed industry, but does not have enough raw materials.)
až *	when (with the future)	*Rozhodneme se, až budeme mít více informací.* (When we have more information, we'll make a decision.)
až *	until	*Budu čekat tak dlouho, až přijde.* (I'll wait until he comes.)
buď * - *nebo* *	either - or	*Večer můžeme jít buď do kina, nebo ke známým.* (In the evening we can either go to the movies or to see our friends.)
čím - tím	the - the	*Čím méně budeš mluvit, tím lépe.* (The less you will speak, the better.)
dokud *	as long as	*Dokud jsme měli hodně peněz, mohli jsme cestovat po Evropě.* (As long as we had a lot of money we could travel in Europe.)
dokud * - *ne*	until	*Počkej zde, dokud se nevrátím.* (Wait here until I return.)
dříve než *	see: *než*	

Conjuction	English Equivalent	Examples
i	both (not only- but also)	*Procházkovi mají auto i chatu.* (The Prochazkas have both a car and a cottage.)
hned jak *	as soon as	*Hned jak se vrátili z Berlína, telefonovali nám.* (As soon as they returned from Berlin, they called us.)
i kdyby *	even if	*I kdybych měl dost peněz, nekoupil bych to.* (Even if I had enough money, I wouldn't buy it.)
jak *	see: *jakmile*	
jednak * - *jednak* *	partly - partly	*Jednak pršelo a jednak jsme neměli dost peněz.* (Partly it was raining and partly we did not have enough money).
i když *	even though	*I když ji nerozuměl, řekl ano.* (Even though he didn't understand her, he said yes.)
jakmile *	as soon as	*Jakmile jsme přijeli do hotelu, vykoupali jsme se.* (We took a bath as soon as we arrived at the hotel.)
jako by (jako kdyby)	as if	*Spěchal, jako by měl strach, že zmešká vlak.* (He hurried as if he were afraid that he would miss the train.)
jak - tak	both - and, as well as	*Pracoval jak na Moravě tak i na Slovensku.* (He has worked in Moravia as well as in Slovakia.)
jelikož *	because, since	*Jelikož cena benzinu se zvýšila, klesl prodej velkých aut.* (Since the price of gasoline has gone up, the sale of big cars has dropped.)

Conjuction	English Equivalent	Examples
jenže *	but	*Chtěli jsme jít na výstavu, jenže už bylo pozdě.* (We wanted to go to the exhibition, but is was too late.)
jestli (že) *	if (in case)	*Jestli ho uvidíš, řekni mu, že zítra nebudu doma.* (If you see him, tell him that I won't be home tomorrow.)
	if (whether)	*Napiš mi, jestli přijedeš.* (Write me if you'll come.)
kdežto	whereas	*On má rád víno, kdežto já mám rád pivo.* (He likes wine, whereas I like beer.)
kdyby *	see: The Conditional Mood	
kdykoli (v) *	whenever	*Kdykoli jedu do Prachatic, stavím se u tety.* (Whenever I go to Prachatice, I visit my aunt.)
když *	if, in case	*Když bud mít čas, půjdu večer do knihovny.* (If I have time, I'll go to the library tonight.)
	when	*Když jsem s ním mluvil naposledy, říkal mi, že se bude ženit.* (When I talked to him last, he told me that he was going to get married.)
ledaže *	unless	*Smlouvu neobnovíme, ledaže sníží cenu služeb.* (We will not renew the contract, unless they lower the price of services.)
mezitím, co *	while	*Mezitím, co jsme jsme nakupovali, někdo se vloupal do našeho auta.* (While we were shopping somebody broke into our car.)

Conjuction	English Equivalent	Examples
nebo *	or	*Pojedeme v neděli na výlet nebo zůstaneme doma?* (Are we going on a trip Sunday or are we going to stay home?)
nebot' *	for, because	*V Československu stavějí nové silnice, nebot' počet vozidel se značně zvýšil.* (They are building new roads in Czechoslavakia, because the number of vehicles has increased significantly.)
nejen - ale i	not only - but also	*Těžký průmysl znečišťuje nejen vzduch, ale i řeky.* (Heavy industry pollutes not only the air, but also the rivers.)
než *	before	*Než odešel, vypnul světlo.* (He had turned off the light before he left.)
nýbrž	but	*Nejeli jsem do Brna, nýbrž do Pardubic.* (We did not go to Brno but to Pardubice.)
pokud * (See: *dokud)*		
poněvadž * (See: *protože)*		
proto *	because	*On mi řekl, že se chce učit anglicky, a proto jsem mu prodal ten slovník.* (He told me that he wants to study English, and that's why I sold him that dictionary.)
protože * *přestože* * *(See: i když)*	that's why, therefore because	*Nemluvil jsem s nim dlouho, protože spěchal.* (I didn't talk to him too long, because he was in a hurry.)
sice - ale *třeba (že)* * (See: *ačkoliv)*	it's true - but	*Ten vůz je sice drahý, ale dobrý.* (It's true that the car is expensive, but it is good.)
tak - jak(o) *	as	*Dělali jsme to tak, jak nám říkali.* (We did it as we were told.)

Conjuction	English Equivalent	Examples
tím že *	because	*Tím, že se rozvedla, musela platit vyšší daně.* (Because she got divorced she had to pay higher taxes.)
zatímco *	while	*Zatímco profesor přednášel,dělali si studenti poznámky.* (The students took notes while the professor lectured.)
že *	that	*Jsem rád, že jste přišel.* (I am glad that you came.)
zda *	whether	*Zda mu zvýší plat nebo ne, se rozhodne příští týden.* (Whether they will increase his salary or not will be decided next week.)

10. 2 Sentences without a Subject

There are three types of sentences which may function without a subject.

1. The subject is understood from the preceding sentence:

   Můj přítel Otmar se velmi zajímá o antikvární knihy. Včera na příklad koupil první výtisk Jiráskova Temna.

   (My friend Otmar is very much interested in old books. Yesterday, for example, [he] bought the first edition of Jirasek's Temno.)

2. The subject is understood as "they, people, someone":

   Říká se o něm, že je velmi chytrý. (They say that he is very clever.)

3. Constructions such as the following are always without a subject:

Prší.	(It's raining.)
Je teplo.	(It's hot.)
Chumelí.	(It's snowing.)
Marii je zima.	(Mary feels cold.) (In the Czech sentence Mary is not the subject.)

10.3 Subject - Verb Agreement

When a verb precedes a subject consisting of several words, the word closest to the verb determines the number of the verb:

Zde je Karel, Věra a Petr.	(Charles, Vera and Peter are here.)
V delegaci jsou dva Bulhaři a jeden Rus.	(In the delegation are two Bulgarians and one Russian.)

The above type of agreement is applicable to all three tenses. The past tense, the *l*-form verb, must also agree in gender.

Zde byla Věra, Karel a Petr.	(Vera, Charles and Peter were here.)

10.4 Complex Sentences with *když* (when)

A complex sentence which has one subject and two clauses introduced by *když* may have the following sequence of verbal aspects:

1. Two imperfective verbs:

Když čtu ruské knihy, používám slovník. (Both actions take place simultaneously.)	(When I read Russian books, I use a dictionary.)

2. One perfective verb and one imperfective verb:

Když se nasnídám, čtu noviny. (The imperfective follows the perfective.)	(After I finish breakfast, I read the newspaper.)

3. One imperfective verb and one perfective:

Když snídal, manželka přijela. The perfective took place, while the imperfective was going on.)	(When he was having breakfast, his wife arrived.)

4. Two perfective verbs:

Když prodáme chatu, koupíme si nové auto.	(If we sell the cottage, we'll buy a new car.)

(A conditional statement; the second action depends on the first.)

10.5 Phrases *že ano, že ne*

An affirmative question is formed by adding ***že ano*** to a positive statement, and a negative question is formed by adding ***že ne*** to a negative statement:

Vy ho znáte, že ano?	(You know him, don't you?)
Jeho žena se jmenuje Věra, že ano?	(His wife's name is Vera, isn't it?)
Vy ho neznáte, že ne?	(You don't know him do you?)
To není konec knihy, že ne?	(This isn't the end of the book, is it?)

188

11. COLLOQUIAL CZECH

11.1 General Description

Colloquial Czech manifests itself in three areas:

a. pronunciation
b. grammar
c. vocabulary

11.1.1 Pronunciation

Even though there are still some remnants of the once rich variety of dialects left in the country, especially in Moravia, colloquial pronunciation throughout Bohemia differs quite significantly and with the certain uniformity from the literary one or what is otherwise known as "stage" pronunciation.

11.1.2 Many clusters, especially at the beginning of a word are pronounced as one sound.

spelled	pronounced
jmenovat se	*menovat se*
jdu	*du*
jsem	*sem*
dcera	*cera*
hřeben	*řeben*
hrozinka	*rozinka*
člověče	*čoveče*
šestnáct	*šesnáct*
lžíce	*žíce*

When linking two words together, the fusion of the final and beginning consonants may take place.

pojd' sem	*pocem*
dej ji to	*deji to*
koupil lístky	*koupilístky*

11.1.3 Various words may contract or expand.

spelled	pronounced
nějak	*ňák*
dělal	*ďál*
osm	*osum*
sedm	*sedum*
tenhle	*tenhlec*

11.1.4 Adding consonant ***v*** in front of words starting with the vowel ***o***.

oba	*voba*
okno	*vokno*
ostuda	*vostuda*
orat	*vorat*
otevřít	*votevřít* etc.

11.1.5 In some cases, the vowel ***e*** is pronounced as ***i***.

večer	*večír*

11.1.6 In the stem of nouns and practically always in adjectival endings, the vowel ***é*** is pronounced as ***i***.

haléř	*halíř*
velké	*velký*
velkému	*velkýmu*
velkém	*velkým*

11.1.7 The vowel ***ý,*** if part of an adjectival ending or stem of various nouns and verbs, is almost always pronounced as ***ej***.

bílý	*bílej*
dobrým	*dobrejm*
těžkých	*těžkejch*

183

spelled	pronounced
hýl	*hejl*
býlí	*bejlí*
hýbat	*hejbat*
výskat	*vejskat*
rýpat	*rejpat*

11.2 Grammar

In the grammar, colloquial constructions usually manifest themselves by a different ending than required in the literary language.

11.2.1 Nouns

11.2.1.1 Hard ending ***-ovi*** on the masculine soft animate nouns in the dative and locative singular.

literary	colloquial
muži	*mužovi*
učiteli	*učitelovi*
přiteli	*přítelovi*

11.2.1.2 Dual ending ***-ama*** practically on all hard nouns and ***-ema*** on all soft nouns in the instrumental plural.

literary	colloquial
studenty	*studentama*
obchody	*obchodama*
Němci	*Němcema*
měsíci	*měsícema*
ženami	*ženama*
restauracemi	*restauracema*
postelemi	*postelema*
městy	*městama*

letišti	*letištěma*
velvyslanectvími	*velvyslanectvíma*

and others

předsedy	*předsedama*
kostmi	*kostma*
věcmi	*věcma*

11.2.1.3 Ending ***-i*** in hard masculine nouns ending in ***-an*** and ***-ista*** in the nominative plural

literary	colloquial
Angličané	*Angličani*
Američané	*Američani*
Moravané	*Moravani*
krajané	*krajani*
komunisté	*komunisti*
fašisté	*fašisti*
kapitalisté	*kapitalisti*

and others

demokraté	*demokrati*
pánové	*páni*
diplomaté	*diplomati*

11.2.1.4 Ending ***-ách*** in the hard masculine animate and inanimate nouns ending in ***h, k, ch*** in the locative plural.

literary	colloquial
o vojácích	*vojákách*
v potocích	*potokách*
na březích	*břehách*
o černoších	*černochách*

11.2.1.5 Replacement of the dual endings in the genitive and locative cases of dual nouns (except for ***oko*** and ***ucho***) by regular endings.

literary	colloquial
na rukou	*rukách*
u nohou	*noh*
na kolenou	*kolenách*

11.2.2 Pronouns

11.2.2.1 Plural personal pronouns ***my, vy, oni*** in the instrumental case.

literary	colloquial
s námi	*náma*
s vámi	*váma*
s nimi	*nima*

11.2.2.2 Since the interrogative pronouns ***který, jaký*** are adjectives in form, see section 10.2.3.

11.2.2.3 While the masculine and neuter singular forms of demonstrative pronouns do not show any deviation from their literary version, the genitive, dative and locative feminine forms follow the pronunciation patterns mentioned in the section 10.1.5.

literary	colloquial
u té ženy	*tý ženy*
k té škole	*tý škole*
o té restauraci	*tý restauraci*

The nominative plural forms ***ti, ty, ta*** are usually reduced to ***ty*** only.

literary	colloquial
ti vojáci	*ty vojáci*
ti učitelé	*ty učitelé*
ta města	*ty města*

The instrumental plural form ***těmi*** is replaced by ***těma***.

literary	colloquial
s těmi lidmi	*s těma lidma*

This applies to the other variants ***tenhle***, ***tento***, ***tamten*** as well.

11.2.2.4 The possessive pronouns ***můj***, ***tvůj*** and reflexive ***svůj*** will also follow the pronunciation patterns mentioned in the sections 10.1.5 and 10.1.6.

literary	colloquial
u mé ženy	*mý ženy*
o tvé dceři	*tvý dceři*
pro mého syna	*mýho syna*
o tvém autě	*tvým autě*
vedle svých knih	*svejch knih* etc.

The nominative plural form ***mý***, ***tvý*** will usually cover all three gender variants.

literary	colloquial
mí bratři	*mý bratři*
tvé peníze	*tvý peníze*
mé sestry	*mý sestry*
tvá pera	*tvý pera*

The instrumental plural form ***mými***, ***tvými***, ***svými*** is usually replaced by ***mýma*** (***mejma***), ***tvýma*** (***tvejma***) and ***svýma*** (***svejma***).

literary	colloquial
s tvými sestrami	*tvejma sestrama*
za mými zády	*mejma zádama*
se svými dětmi	*svejma dětma*

A similar change also happens to ***náš*** and ***váš***.

literary	colloquial
s našimi příbuznými	*našema příbuznejma*
před vašimi auty	*vašema autama*

11.2.2.5 The use of the possessive reflexive pronoun ***svůj*** is limited to the third person singular and plural to avoid misunderstanding. In other constructions the use of the other possessive pronouns is prevalent.

literary	colloquial
Mluvím se svou sestrou.	*Mluvím s mou sestrou.*
Stojíme za svou teorií.	*Stojíme za naší teorií.*
Hledáte svůj pas?	*Hledáte váš pas?*

11.2.2.6 The indefinite pronoun ***všechen*** shows irregularity in the instrumental plural only. The colloquial form is ***všema***.

literary	colloquial
se všemi znalostmi	*všema znalostma*

11.2.3 Adjectives

While the soft adjectives do not show any departure from the standard or literary forms, the hard and possessive adjectives deviate quite often.

11.2.3.1 Influence of pronunciation patterns mentioned in the section 11.1.5 and 11.1.6.

literary	colloquial
vedle českého slovníku	*českýho slovníku*
od české studentky	*český studentky*
k novému kinu	*novýmu kinu*
u velkých obchodů	*velkejch obchodů*
ke starým případům	*starejm případům*
o bratrových penězích	*bratrovejch penězích*

11.2.3.2 Ending ***-ý*** substituting all other forms varying according to the different gender in the plural nominative case including the omission of softening in combination with masculine animate nouns.

literary	colloquial
američtí diplomaté	*americký diplomati*
ruské slovníky	*ruský slovníky*

mladé dívky	*mladý dívky*
anglická auta	*anglický auta*
Karlova pera	*Karlovy pera*

11.2.3.3 The instrumental plural ending ***-ými*** is replaced by ***-ýma*** (***-ejma***)

literary	colloquial
před vysokými budovami	*vysokejma budovama*
se starými lidmi	*starejma lidma*
s ruskými důstojníky	*ruskejma důstojníkama*
se sestřinými učiteli	*sestřinejma učitelama*

11.2.4 Numerals

The difference between the literary and colloquial Czech in the area of numerals is minimal.

11.2.4.1 The colloquial pronunciation of the numerals ***4***, ***7*** and ***8***.

literary	colloquial
čtyři	*štyry*
sedm	*sedum*
osm	*osum*

11.2.4.2 The German inversion, especially when a numeral is declined.

literary	colloquial
dvacet osm	*osmadvacet*
o dvaceti osmi	*osmadvaceti*
s dvaceti osmi	*osmadvaceti*

11.2.4.3 Ordinal numerals inverted and declined as hard adjectives except for ***prvni*** and ***třeti***. See the section 11.2.3.

literary	colloquial
dvacátý osmý	*osmadvacátej*
o dvacáté osmé	*osmadvacátý*
o dvacátém osmém	*osmadvacátým*

11.2.5 Verbs

11.2.5.1 Infinitive of the verbs ending in ***-ci*** is regularized into ***-ct***.

literary	colloquial
téci	*téct*
péci	*péct*
vléci	*vléct*

11.2.5.2 Present tense endings of the I, II and III declension.

literary	colloquial
I	
oni dělají	*dělaj*
oni mají	*maj*
oni zpívají	*zpívaj*
II	
my čteme	*čtem*
my pracujeme	*pracujem*
my píšeme	*píšem*
oni píší	*píšou*
oni pracují	*pracujou*
oni žijí	*žijou*
III	
oni vidí	*viděj*
oni chodí	*choděj*
on ztrácí	*ztrácej*

11.2.5.3. Loss of the past tense marker **l** in the masculine singular forms when the stem end in a consonant.

literary	colloquial
kopl	*kop*
bodl	*bod*
rozhodl	*rozhod*
nesl	*nes*
třeskl	*třesk*

11.2.5.4. Omission of the verb **to be** in the first person sg. while using the personal pronoun.

literary	colloquial
Já jsem tam byl.	*Já tam byl.*
Já jsem tam chodil.	*Já tam chodil.*
Já jsem ho neviděl	*Já ho neviděl.*

11.2.5.5. Use of the conditional particle ***bysme*** instead of ***bychom*** in the first person plural.

literary	colloquial
Udělali bychom to, ...	*Udělali bysme to, ...*
My bychom mu to řekli, ...	*My bysme mu to řekli, ...*
Jeli bychom tam, ...	*Jeli bysme tam, ...*

11.2.5.6. Use of the adjectival rather than passive endings in the passive participles.

literary	colloquial
Výroba byla zastavena.	*Výroba byla zastavená.*
Letadlo bylo sestřeleno.	*Letadlo bylo sestřelené.*
Velvyslanec byl přijat.	*Velvyslanec byl přijatý.*

11.2.6 Adverbs

11.2.6.1. Omission of the ending ***-e*** in the comparative and superlative forms.

literary	colloquial
hůře	*hůř*
lépe	*líp*
blíže	*blíž*

11.2.6.2. Replacement of the comparative and superlative suffix ***-eji (-ěji)*** by ***-ejc***.

literary	colloquial
rychleji	*rychlejc*
hlouběji	*hloubějc*
nejpomaleji	*nejpomalejc*

11.2.7 Prepositions

11.2.7.1 Use of *skrz* instead of *kvůli*.

literary	colloquial
Přišel kvůli tomu dopisu.	*Přišel skrz ten dopis.*
Volal kvůli tomu vízu.	*Volal skrz to vízum.*
Mluvil s ní kvůli té nehodě.	*Mluvil s ní skrz tu nehodu.*

11.2.7.2 Use of *podle* instead of *podél*.

literary	colloquial
Jeli jsme podél řeky.	*Jeli jsme podle řeky.*
Cesta vedla podél lesa.	*Cesta vedla podle lesa.*
Šli podél tratě.	*Šli podle tratě.*

11.3 Vocabulary.

11.3.1 General description.

As in all languages, there exist in Czech terms which would not be normally used in public speech or writings, since they belong to the category of so-called colloquial expressions. One peculiarity of the Czech vocabulary, however, is the fact that for many centuries it was under the direct influence of German, which left profound traces--practically in all areas of lexicon. The borrowings of the early dates (9th -16th centuries) have been essentially incorporated in today's literary Czech and their use does not evoke any negative feeling of inappropriateness. However, many of these words, which are undoubtedly of German origin, but in the course of the last hundred years or so were bohemized, still exist today in colloquial Czech and represent a sizable quantity. Even though there is a parallel expression for every German based word that is of pure Czech origin, they are still deeply rooted in contemporary colloquial Czech. Sometimes these words carry a slightly pejorative conotation; therefore, semantically they are not exactly on the same level as their Czech counterparts.

The following is the list of the most frequent terms you may run into when listening to Czechs speaking at home with their family members or friends.

11.3.2 NOUNS

šuple (die Schublade)	*zásuvka* (drawer)
barák (die Barracke)	*dům* (house, building)
kredenc (die Kredenz)	*sekretář* (china cabinet)
hajzl (das Häusel)	*záchod* (restroom)
policajt (die Polizei)	*policista* (policeman)
kravál (der Krawall)	*hluk* (noise)
bordel (das Bordell)	*nevěstinec* (brothel)
fusekle (die Fußsocke)	*ponožka* (sock)
kravata (die Krawatte)	*vázanka* (tie)
cimra (das Zimmer)	*místnost* (room)
lágr (das Lager)	*tábor* (camp)
ordnunk (die Ordnung)	*pořádek* (order)
šlajf (die Schleife)	*brzda* (brake)
vercajk (das Werkzeug)	*nářadí* (tools)
fabrika (die Fabrik)	*továrna* (factory)
kamrlík (das Kämmerlein)	*přístěnek* (closet)
kuráž (die Courage)	*odvaha* (courage)
lavór (das Lavoir)	*umývadlo* (washbasin)
kšeft (das Geschäft)	*obchod* (store, deal)
partaj (die Partei)	*strana* (party)
ašus (der Ausschuß)	*zmetek* (reject)
metál (das Metall)	*vyznamenání* (medal, decoration)
flaška (die Flasche)	*láhev* (bottle)
špajzka (die Speise)	*spižírna* (food storage)
fotr (der Vater)	*otec* (father)
kunčoft (die Kundschaft)	*zákazník* (customer)
hever (der Heber)	*zvedák* (car jack)
korba (der Korb)	*ložná plocha* (truck bed)
sajtna (die Seite)	*postranice* (side board)
špacír (der Spaziergang)	*procházka* (walk)
frajle (das Fräulein)	*slečna* (Miss)
kušna (die Gosche)	*huba* (mouth, puss)
kýbl (der Kübel)	*kbelík* (bucket)
flinta (die Flinte)	*puška* (rifle)
blinkr (der Blinker)	*směrovka* (blinker)
ruksak (der Rucksack)	*batoh* (backpack)
špagát (der Spagat)	*provaz* (rope)
činže (der Zins)	*nájemné* (rent)
flek (der Fleck)	*skvrna* (stain)
pumpa (die Pumpe)	*čerpadlo* (pump)

11.2.3 VERBS

plundrovat (plündern)	*zničit* (to plunder)
mordovat (morden)	*vraždit* (to murder)
vyhandlovat (handeln)	*vyměnit* (to exchange)
pucovat (putzen)	*čistit* (to clean)
zkrachovat (krachen)	*udělat bankrot* (to declare bankruptcy)
štelovat (stellen)	*seřizovat* (to adjust)
zrichtovat (richten)	*spravit* (to repair)
zacálovat (zahlen)	*platit* (to pay)
rabovat (rauben)	*vyloupit* (to burglarize)
štrikovat (stricken)	*plést* (to knit)

11.2.4 ADJECTIVES

švorcový (schwarz)	*bez peněz* (poor, penniless)
placatý (der Platz)	*plochý* (flat)
fajnový (fein)	*jemný* (fine)
šikovný (geschickt)	*zručný* (skillful)
flekatý (der Fleck)	*poskvrněný* (stained)
falcovaný (die Falz)	*drážkovaný* (dove tailed)
festovni (fest)	*pevný* (firm)
filcový (Filz-)	*plstěný* (felt)

and many many more. Fortunately, the quantity of these words is getting from generation to generation smaller, especially when compared to the pre-war time. Many of these German words are now gone (e.g., names of tools) or, if used, they are not understood by many.

United States Department of State

Foreign Service Institute

1400 Key Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Ms. Marcos

May 24, '93

thanks for your letter informing us that the **Czech Basic Course** was put into the ERIC system. Last year another important publication was released by FSI namely the Czech Grammar. Unfortunately the printer forgot to include the title page so the book is out without the name of its author. We hope to correct this error in the next issue. The author's name is **Jiri Cernik**. Should you have any questions dealing with this latest publication, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

Jiri Cernik, LTS